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Japan

Tokyo 'Not Yet' Ready To Ask Yen Intervention

OW1708042893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0336 GMT
17 Aug 93

[Text] Karuizawa, Nagano Pref., Aug. 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Tuesday [17 August] the yen's latest rally in currency markets is worrisome, but Tokyo is not yet considering asking other nations for joint intervention.

"It's really a worrisome issue. There might have been speculative (yen) buying, but we must act to prevent foreign exchange rates from getting unstable," Hosokawa told a group of reporters when asked about the yen's record-shattering advance.

Asked whether Japan will ask other nations for joint intervention to halt the yen's rise, Hosokawa replied, "there has been no discussion within the government about it. We have to watch (exchange rates) a little for a while," Hosokawa said when asked whether the government will monitor the yen's movement for the time being.

In Tokyo, the yen continued its rampage against the dollar Tuesday morning, breaking through the 101 yen level to rise as high as 100.47 yen at one stage.

After caution had reined in the dollar's declines at the opening, the morning's reports spurred "sudden" yen buying, said dealer Yuko Fukakusa at Tokai Bank. "It doesn't look like it's going to stop at this level," she said, but called a drop below 100 yen "difficult" for Tuesday's Tokyo session.

Masatoshi Ishida, a dealer at Sakura Bank, said that if the break to double digits does not come in Tokyo trading, it could well occur in overseas trading.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL reported that the U.S. Government "appears unlikely to act to halt the yen's surge" as officials "are said to be hoping" the yen's gains "will make a big dent" in Japan's trade surplus.

"U.S. Federal Reserve officials also appear unconcerned," the BUSINESS DAILY said, without citing sources, in a story carried in Japanese just before 10 A.M.

The dollar quickly shed its tentative gains and a half hour later, Japanese news reports quoted an unnamed Japanese "Government source" as saying the yen's gains seemed likely to continue and calling a double-digit yen-dollar ratio "possible." The source reportedly said the government has no policy to deal with the strong yen except to hope the Bank of Japan will cut its key lending rate.

The dollar moved between 100.40 yen and 101.73 yen in the morning, with the most frequently traded rate at

100.55 yen. Spot trading volume totaled 6,469 million dollars, while swap transactions came to 10,661 million dollars.

Government Said Letting Bank of Japan Curb Yen

OW1708042993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT
17 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 17 KYODO—Active intervention in the foreign exchange market by the Bank of Japan (BOJ) is the only way for Japan to deal with the yen's surge against the U.S. dollar, a government source said Tuesday [17 August]. The government has no plans for direct intervention in the market, he said, indicating that it feels it is up to the central bank to try to stop the yen's rise through active selling of yen and purchases of dollars, the source said.

The source also said the yen's value could rise past 100 yen against the dollar, saying the yen is being bought because of Japan's huge trade surplus. To help reduce the surplus, Japan must ease various restrictions to expand domestic economic demand, the source said.

The source expressed reservations, however, about additional economic stimulation measures, including a reduction in the official discount rate and extra appropriations for public works spending.

New Ministers Discuss Economic Issues 11 Aug

OW1408150393

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 1230 GMT on 11 August carries a live 75-minute roundtable discussion program of new cabinet ministers' views on economic issues. The program, entitled "How Should We Deal With Economic and Budget Issues?," is the second and last of a two-part program entitled "We Ask the New Cabinet Ministers."

The program is moderated by NHK commentators Kazuo Okamura and Takashi Yamamoto. Participants include Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii; Eijoro Hata, head of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MOFF); Hiroshi Kumagai, head of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI); Construction Minister Kozo Igarashi; and Labor Minister Chikara Sakaguchi.

At 1231 GMT, Yamamoto begins the program by asking the participants to discuss their aspirations as cabinet members. Asked to state his views on the current economic condition, Finance Minister Fujii says that although economic measures have been taken, "the economic condition has not taken a favorable turn, and we have to take the situation seriously." On the same issue, MITI Minister Kumagai notes: "I think the situation is more serious than estimated. Although it is a so-called aftereffect of the bubble economy, it is having a serious structural impact on the economy." He stresses although it takes much time, long-range efforts should be

made to solve the issue. Other ministers also indicate similar views. Asked if recent money-for-favor scandals involving major construction firms are having a negative impact on implementing public works and housing projects—one of the major factors that can boost the economy—Construction Minister Igarashi says: "Delays in implementing public works projects may be seen in some local autonomies. As a whole, however, I think, judging from a survey conducted in late June to measure progress in implementing public works projects, the impact is small." MITI Minister Kumagai then proposes: "Economic measures should include such measures as easing rules and regulations."

At 1250 GMT, Okamura then asks the participants if a drastic tax cut should be carried out as part of the economic measures. While Labor Minister Sakaguchi and Construction Minister Igarashi indicate they are being cautious toward a possible income tax cut, Finance Minister Fujii, citing former U.S. President Reagan's tax cut policy in 1981, which he says led to serious financial difficulties, says: "It is questionable to carry out a tax cut, which will lead to a financial deficit." Concerning tax incentives for housing and corporate investments, Fujii says it is necessary to see how these measures will take effect.

Asked by Okamura about raising the consumption tax rate, the finance minister says: "I do not think it is right to refrain from discussing the issue of raising the consumption tax." He adds: "We need to discuss the issue and then follow the outcome of those discussions." In response, Labor Minister Sakaguchi stresses: "Under the current economic situation, raising the consumption tax rate runs counter to efforts to boost economy."

At 1310 GMT, Yamamoto asks MITI Minister Kumagai how the government will take advantage of the strong yen. Kumagai replies: "Although the current yen's [Y] exchange rate against the dollar is Y103, its actual value is Y200. This is because there is a gap between foreign and domestic prices." He continues: "It is necessary to swiftly take measures to reduce the price gap."

At 1317 GMT, Finance Minister Fujii, asked by Okamura about how to compile the fiscal budget under the Hosokawa government, says, "The new government will attach importance to increasing livelihood-related budgets by reviewing budget allocations."

MOFF Minister Hata calls for increasing the budget for his ministry, while Construction Minister Igarashi stresses the need to reform the construction administration. In that context, Okamura asks Igarashi how he plans to reform it in the face of recent scandals involving major construction firms. In response, Igarashi says: "The first thing we have to do is to change politics. We must all do away with the long-standing practice of applying pressure upon the administration. If such a practice remains unchanged, the new government will be condemned." Regarding reform of the bidding system, he notes: "Basically, an open competitive bidding system

should be applied to bidding in which major construction firms take part; however, limitations should be placed on the open system. Even other nations, such as the United States and European nations, have no complete bidding system. They have their own bidding system, while still emphasizing their competitive natures and transparency. While taking account of other nations' bidding systems, we have to take bold measures to clarify competition, particularly among major construction firms."

At 1320 GMT, Okamura brings the subject back to the issue concerning the budget ceiling for fiscal 1994, which will be decided at a cabinet meeting on 13 August. MITI Minister Kumagai notes in-depth discussions should be made until December, when the budget for fiscal 1994 will be compiled.

At 1322 GMT, Yamamoto turns the subject to the issue concerning the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, saying Japan is required to be a leader in making the talks successful. MOFF Minister Hata says: "Some people are prejudiced that the Uruguay Round of trade talks will end in failure if Japan fails to open its rice market. This is a misunderstanding. I think, when discussing such a global issue, the issues involving Japan have to be dealt with impartially." Citing the U.S.-EC recent agreement, he says: "If they insist on their accord as the GATT talks enter the final stage, all other nations will regard their attitude as high-handed."

At 1325 GMT, citing Prime Minister Hosokawa's remarks questioning future self-sufficiency in rice because of a lack of young people who are farmers, Yamamoto asks Hata if his remarks can be taken as a hint at possible rice market liberalization. Hata answers: "It is wrong to take his remarks that way," going on to say, "A plan aimed at promoting the food supply and agriculture in preparation for the 21st century was worked out in June last year, and two bills related to the plan were passed during the last Diet session. In this way, efforts are currently being made to settle domestic agricultural issues."

In response, moderator Okamura, citing the liberalized citrus and beef markets, points out that rice farmers fear that the new government may eventually open the rice market because of foreign pressure. MOFF Minister Hata replies that "it is imperative to regain the confidence of those concerned with agriculture, forestry, and fishing." Saying each nation should establish a self-supply system for food in the face of an increasing world population, he stresses: "In view of this political stance, I think, as I said earlier, that rice tariffication and liberalizing the rice market should be avoided."

At 1329 GMT, asked by Okamura to state his view as MITI minister on the possible liberalization of the rice market, Kumagai answers: "Basically, the Uruguay Round of trade talks has to be concluded successfully," adding, "however, it is still unclear how negotiations on agricultural issues, including rice, will end. Since the

issues have to be solved through negotiations, Japan needs to abolish its manner of solving the issues by making use of foreign pressure. I think Japan is required to take the initiative based on its own decisions and risks." He says that in addition to the rice issue, there are other agricultural issues. Asked by Okamura if the government would maintain its stand of opposing rice tariffication, Kumagai says: "Depending on the development of negotiations, a time will come for Japan to make a decision."

At 1331 GMT, Okamura takes up the issue concerning foreign workers and welfare annuity. Labor Minister Sakaguchi says: "I think it will be necessary in the future to accept foreigners into the labor force" with certain conditions attached, noting that further study should be given to this issue. He also presents his basic position on the welfare annuity issue.

At 1335 GMT, Okamura then turns the subject to relations between Japan and the United States and asks Hata how to deal with the coming economic talks between the two countries. Kumagai says: "We need to maintain economic growth while curbing any unilateral increase in the trade surplus. Although I do not think it will decrease sharply, making all-out efforts to constantly reduce the trade surplus is the most important factor for Japan to maintain relations with the United States."

At 1338 GMT, asked by Yamamoto if there are measures to stimulate domestic demand, Finance Minister Fujii says: "It is very important to boost domestic demand," adding, "We have to strain our wits to stimulate domestic demand," which contributes to reducing the trade surplus. Asked by Okamura about future relations between Japan and the United States, Construction Minister Igarashi says: "It is important to emphasize maintaining relations with the United States; however, when holding talks, we have to say what we want to say." All the participants agree with Okamura's opinion that: "It is all right for Japan to say what it wants to say. In the meantime, however, Japan has to do what it has to do."

Okamura concludes the roundtable discussion program at 1345 GMT.

BOJ Action Raises Hopes of Key Rate Cut

*OW1608115693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1143 GMT
16 Aug 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 KYODO—The Bank of Japan (BOJ) on Monday [16 August] clearly indicated that it favors lower money market rates, spawning speculation that it may soon cut the official discount rate further.

The central bank pumped an ample amount of funds into the banking system in its daily fund operations, leaving one of the key interest rates on the Tokyo money market at a historic low level. The action rekindled hopes that the bank is seeking to lower its official

discount rate in order to breathe life into the continuously weak economy, with some speculators expecting the move will come as early as late August.

The key lending rate, which the BOJ charges on commercial banks, was last lowered in February to a record-tying 2.5 percent per annum.

The central bank bought 500 billion yen in discount bills on the money market Monday, more than canceling out a 400 billion yen fund shortage expected for the day.

"The BOJ apparently wants to ease credit for two purposes—one is economic stimulation and the other is to arrest the yen's surge by widening the interest rate differential between Japan and foreign countries," a commercial bank dealer said. The eased credit stance sent the open market benchmark rate on newly issued, three-month certificates of deposit (CD's) to 2.96 percent, the lowest on record.

The rate on unsecured overnight call money, the yardstick rate for interbank dealing, also plunged 0.15625 percentage point from last Friday to 3.0625 percent. Market watchers said that if the CD rate stays at that level, the short-term prime lending rate offered by commercial banks for the most creditworthy customers will be brought down from the current 4.0 percent per annum.

Sakaguchi Wants Revised Rules on Foreign Labor

*OW1708083193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0821 GMT
17 Aug 93*

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 17 KYODO—New Labor Minister Chikara Sakaguchi on Tuesday [17 August] described as "fossilized" laws restricting manual foreign labor in Japan and foreshadowed changes in legislation.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Sakaguchi said there are gaps between labor regulations and actual practice, particularly as the law applies to foreign workers. "They're probably illegal, but the reality is that manual laborers are entering the country," said the lower house member of Komeito.

"I wonder if it's good enough to adhere to the cabinet decision by turning a blind eye and discreetly taking in manual laborers," he said. "There has to be liaison with other agencies and ministries, but I am aware of the problem."

Sakaguchi expressed incredulity at being a cabinet minister in a coalition on the governing side of parliament.

"When I was chairman of the Komeito policy board, you couldn't even scrape four parties together," Sakaguchi said. "That seven parties have got together is like a summer's dream."

Sakaguchi acknowledged that the previous government under the Liberal Democratic Party implemented some political reform.

"The real fight is over how the politicians decide once they have asked the reformists for their views, without leaving the final decision up to them," Sakaguchi said.

"The new administration has assumed responsibility for identifying the problem areas and it will be extra severely questioned over its decision-making powers."

Sakaguchi said tax cuts will be a topic for debate in the Diet, but acknowledged that Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa does not appear to favor the idea.

Sakaguchi said the legislature in devising fiscal policy must consider whether it is more effective to reduce income tax or give other kinds of take breaks, including education. "I don't think the prime minister has ruled out all tax cuts," Sakaguchi said.

Asked about increases in rates for overtime and work done during vacation periods, Sakaguchi said some countries award close to 50 percent extra for such work. "Japan should consider it and make a decision," he said.

New Ministers Discuss Planned Policies 10 Aug *OW1408023893*

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 1230 GMT on 10 August carries live a 90-minute roundtable discussion program of cabinet ministers of the new government on the visions, aspirations, and plans they have for the new administration. This program entitled, "How Should Political Reform Be Achieved?," is the first of a two-part program, "We Ask the New Cabinet Ministers." Part two, participated in by economic ministers, will deal with economic issues and will be broadcast on 11 August.

Kazuo Okamura and Takashi Yamamoto, NHK commentators, act as moderators in the program. All heads of the parties taking part in the coalition government—except Morihiro Hosokawa, chairman of the New Japan Party and the new prime minister—are present for the program dealing with political reforms issues. Participants are Tsutomu Hata, chairman of Shinseito (the Japan Renewal Party) and new deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sadao Yamahana, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan (SDPJ) and minister in charge of political reform—a newly created post; Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and new health and welfare minister; Satsuki Eda, representative of the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) and new director general of the Science and Technology Agency; Koshiro Ishida, chairman of Komeito and new director general of the Management and Coordination Agency (an office concerned with political reform); and Masayoshi Takemura, representative of Sakigake (Harbinger) and new chief cabinet secretary.

Yamamoto first asks Foreign Minister Hata: "How do you intend to run Japan's diplomacy?" Hata answers: "Japan has become a country of high status—even

though some countries are not so happy about it. That is the reality. While that is the given situation, I think it is very important that Japan carry out its share of international roles, based on positive and independent thinking. If we look at the international situation in the current post-Cold War era, what is happening one after another are conflicts over religious differences, ethnic issues, or national borders. These kinds of conflicts can spread and expand if nothing is done to stop them. I think it will probably become necessary for Japan to do its part in preventing the conflicts from expanding."

Hata then talks about panglobal issues involving environment, demography, energy, and natural resources. He says, "Since Japan is a country which has knowhow to deal with such issues, I think Japan must make positive contributions in these areas, too"; and adds, "Anyway, Japan has become a country with great power. By responding to do what it can to deal with these issues, I think, Japan can win the confidence of the world and thus can become a country loved by countries of the world."

Moderator Yamamoto asks SDPJ head Yamahana: "You have been named to head the new administration's front office in charge of political reform. Your responsibility is indeed great. Could you tell us about your resolve?" Yamahana says: "The coalition government has been born to respond to the people's demand for political reform. I think it very important that we carry out the reform which the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has failed to implement."

The moderator asks Komeito head Ishida a similar question on political reform. Ishida replies: "The new government is starting as the people watch political corruption in dismay and the people's distrust in the government is growing. That being the case, I am sure that the new government must aggressively pursue the political reform which can win back the people's trust."

Asked by Yamamoto to spell out the health and welfare administration, Ouchi stresses that the "Hosokawa cabinet should forward a clear welfare vision to the people," adding the LDP's welfare vision was mere lip-service. Ouchi also says: "If the coalition government repeats what the LDP did, its existence is of no significance. The biggest issue, that the LDP failed to come to grips with, is to build Japan into a life-style industrialized nation."

Discussing atomic power generation, USDP representative Eda says that "eight coalition parties reached an agreement on atomic power generation when they agreed on the formation of a coalition government and I will deal with atomic power generation in line with the agreement."

Asked by Yamamoto to point out the difference between the LDP and coalition governments, Yamahana stresses that, "We should practice politics in a way that the people can easily understand and that should be a starting point for the coalition government."

After a lengthy exchange of views on reforming the current electoral system, Yamamoto turns the subject to foreign affairs and asks Hata to comment on Japan-U.S. economic talks scheduled to be held in September. In response, Hata says: "I think that Japan is only a winner in the free economic system and this situation must be stopped. To that end, Japan must adopt a free competition system through deregulation at home. This will lead to improving the people's lives. From now on, we will compile the next year's budget and we will have to compile it in a way that expands Japan's domestic demand. This measure will contribute to boosting Japan's imports and improving the people's lives. I believe that this measure will best benefit both Japan and the United States. I intend to candidly explain to the United States what Japan intends to do in the future while studying how to implement that measure. The United States has asked Japan to curb its current account surplus to 2-3 percent of the gross domestic production, and my view is that this approach could cause problems."

Saying that the Clinton administration has placed great importance on its results-oriented trade policy and asked Japan to set specific figures for Japan's imports from the United States, Yamamoto asks Hata to comment. Hata says: "As for the figures, it is important for Japan to make the United States think that Japan is doing something to correct trade imbalance between the two countries by setting the direction of correcting it. Various discussions are being held within the government. As I recently told the Americans, talks between Japanese and American industrialists have generated good results. I think that it is good if they make proposals for addressing the imbalance."

Criticizing the U.S. demand for setting numerical trade targets, Yamamoto asks Hata if the coalition government is thinking of compiling a report like the Maekawa Report. Hata says: "I think that the coalition government needs to compile such a report based on the outcome of discussions." Interrupting, Yamahana says: "I hope that Mr. Hata will work hard to that end. I have found documents of the G-7 summit talks very hard to understand after carefully reading them. I hope that the documents will be compiled in a way that ordinary people can understand easily." (laughter).

Referring to U.S. trade demands, Ouchi says: The "United States is a nation that respects rationalism and places great importance on results. I think that the United States will press Japan to commit specific trade figures and percentages. I think that if Japan yields to U.S. pressure, the free trade system would break down and a managed trade would emerge. Japan should vehemently rebuff such U.S. trade demands. However, Japan should convince the United States that it will take trade measures to correct the trade imbalance and the trade measures will generate results without fail. Regrettably, Japan has so far made few efforts to that end. As Mr. Yamamoto just pointed out, I believe that Japan cannot deal with trade issues with the United States if Japan

does not have a new Maekawa Report. Therefore, the coalition government must compile such a report and present the United States with it at Japan-U.S. economic talks."

Hata says: "Today, we discussed that matter. I believe that the coalition government should think of compiling a new Maekawa Report. So far, Japan has compiled the Maekawa Report and the Action Program. Japan also has held the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks with the United States. Nonetheless, a series of those measures have generated few results in addressing the Japan-U.S. trade imbalance, thereby irritating the Americans. Japan has sent various trade missions comprised of business leaders, government officials and party leaders to Europe, the United States, Canada, and Asia. No nation in the world has made such efforts. Japan needs to think seriously of what it should do to address its trade imbalance with the rest of the world. If Japan's measures to address the trade imbalance go well, it would contribute to the improved lives of the people at home."

Ouchi says: "Japan's relations with the United States are important and at the same time, its relations with European and Asian nations are also important. Japan should take the diplomatic stance that it places great importance not only on relations with the United States, but on relations with European and Asian nations. I hope that Foreign Minister Hata will announce such a stance." In response, Hata says: "My party has thought of compiling a report like the Maekawa Report. Pundits in the private sector need to frankly discuss ways to correct the trade imbalance between Japan and the United States. If the Japanese Government takes measures to help American makers sell their products to Japanese industries, this would benefit both Japan and the United States. Everyone thinks that Japan's trade surplus with the United States should not be left uncorrected and I intend to think seriously about what Japan should do to that end."

Yamamoto turns the subject to the reorganization of the United Nations and asks Hata if Japan aims to join the UN Security Council as a permanent member. Hata says: "The Miyazawa cabinet submitted its statement on the UN's reorganization to the world body. What I think is, that with the end of the Cold War, the world is now exploring a new order. Many conflicts are now occurring in the world. The two former superpowers are backing away from involving themselves in the conflicts. To deal with those conflicts, the United Nations should be reorganized; the United Nations is the only world body capable of dealing with such conflicts. I believe that Japan will be able to play a role in dealing with the conflicts. In that sense, Japan, an economic power, should seek a proper role in the United Nations."

Yamamoto asks Yamahana if he supports Japan's joining the UN Security Council as a permanent member. Yamahana responds: "I believe that Japan should seek a permanent seat on the UN Security

Council after making clear how it will reflect on and bear responsibility for its war past. Japan should be more actively involved in reorganizing the United Nations."

Asked by Yamamoto what Prime Minister Hosokawa thinks about Japan's joining the UN Security Council, Takemura says: "I have discussed it with Mr. Hosokawa for a long time since the latest general elections were held. Mr. Hosokawa's view is that Japan should not push for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council through diplomatic maneuvering that could create a backlash from the rest of the world; Japan should join the UN Security Council as a permanent member in a natural way." Takemura goes on to say that, "since Japan has become an economic power, it should join the UN Security Council as a permanent member in a smooth way." Takemura also adds that Prime Minister Hosokawa intends to attend the UN General Assembly this fall if the Diet permits his attendance, and he will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Hata.

In connection with Japan's affiliation with the UN Security Council, Hata says: "The UN General Assembly scheduled for this fall is likely to take up Japan's affiliation with the UN Security Council for deliberation. As Mr. Takemura just said, it is important for Japan not to wage a diplomatic maneuvering to gain a permanent seat on the UN Security Council."

Ouchi says: "It is desirable for Japan to fulfill a substantial responsibility after becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council," adding that Japan should not fulfill a military responsibility.

Yamamoto concludes the roundtable discussion program at 1400 GMT after thanking the participants.

Miyazawa: Hosokawa Can Achieve Political Reform

OW1708144393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1429 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Karuizawa, Nagano Pref., Aug. 17 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told his successor Morihiro Hosokawa on Tuesday [17 August] the new prime minister can achieve political reform and clean up politics. Miyazawa made the remark in an hourlong meeting with Hosokawa at a hotel in the summer retreat of Karuizawa, northwest of Tokyo, Hosokawa aides said.

Responding to Hosokawa's question about political reform featuring electoral changes and tighter control on political funding, Miyazawa reportedly said, "you have to achieve it without a hitch because your government was born amid expectations of the implementation of political reform. And I am sure you can make it."

Hosokawa plans to submit a set of political reform bills to an extraordinary Diet session expected to convene in

early September. He has staked his political future on the success of passing the legislation through the Diet by the end of this year.

Miyazawa also indicated the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will not necessarily opt to squarely oppose the governing coalition's political reform plans, the aides said.

The seven-party union has yet to resolve differences among themselves over details of political reform aimed at introducing an electoral system combining single-seat constituencies with proportional representation to House of Representatives general elections.

The meeting took place after Hosokawa, now on a three-day vacation here until Wednesday, asked Miyazawa to meet him, the aides said. The former premier is also vacationing in Karuizawa.

The meeting was also attended by Shusei Tanaka, special adviser to Hosokawa, Yukio Hatoyama, deputy chief cabinet secretary for political affairs, and Shoichi Ide of Sakigake (Harbinger) party.

Hosokawa and Miyazawa reportedly exchanged views on how and in what number to apportion seats between single-seat constituencies and a proportional representation system. They also compared notes on wide-ranging issues such as the Japan-U.S. trade framework negotiations, Tokyo-Moscow ties and Japan's quest for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, Hosokawa's aides said.

Hosokawa's special adviser Tanaka said the premier was mostly listening to Miyazawa, rather than speaking his mind.

After the talk with Miyazawa, Hosokawa told reporters his administration can stick with the Miyazawa government's policies but that there are also many policy issues the new cabinet must correct.

Shinseito Leader Says Accord Possible on Reform

OW1708092993 Tokyo KYODO in English 0914 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Kanazawa, Aug. 17 KYODO—The ruling coalition can eventually narrow differences on electoral reform plans with the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), a senior leader of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) said Tuesday [17 August]. "By listening to the LDP's claims, I am sure we can find some common ground," Keiwa Okuda, chairman of the House of Representatives Steering Committee, told a news conference here.

Okuda, an erstwhile Transport Minister while he was with the LDP, has been elected nine times in a row to the powerful lower house from the No. 1 constituency of Ishikawa Prefecture. Shinseito is an LDP splinter party.

Okuda said he believes the seven parties within the coalition government can sort out lingering differences on how and in what number to apportion seats between single-seat electoral districts and a proportional representation system.

The Japan New Party headed by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and its ally Sakigake (Harbinger) have proposed allotting 250 seats to single-seat districts and 250 seats to proportional representation.

While the SDPJ [Social Democratic Party of Japan] supports the proposal, Shinseito and Komeito are seeking a ratio of 300 single-seat districts to 200 proportional representation seats, with a single vote cast by each voter.

Under the SDPJ plan, voters would cast two votes—one for an individual candidate in the voter's single-seat constituency and another for a party in a countrywide contest.

The Democratic Socialist Party has proposed a lower house electoral system of 300 seats from single-seat constituencies and 200 by proportional representation, also with each voter casting two votes.

Hosokawa, who inaugurated his coalition government on August 9, ending the LDP's 38-year lock on power, has staked his political future on success in getting onto the statute books by year's end a set of political reform bills featuring electoral changes and tighter curbs on political funding. His two immediate predecessors Toshiki Kaifu and Kiichi Miyazawa both gave up the premiership after failing to achieve political reform.

The LDP has stuck to demands for an electoral system of 300 seats from single-seat constituencies and 200 seats allotted through proportional representation, with each voter casting one vote. "We will be able to reach a compromise and agreement with the LDP by taking a flexible stand," Okuda said.

The lower house steering committee chairman also said arguments that would secure the various parties' survival by selecting as many seats as possible through proportional representation should be carefully listened to, though the trend toward a two-party system is irreversible.

Hosokawa Starts Summer Vacation in Karuizawa
OW1608122893 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Karuizawa, Nagano Pref., Aug. 16 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa arrived at his villa in Karuizawa, northwest of Tokyo, on Monday [16 August] for a three-day summer vacation.

The premier said he will meet former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, also vacationing in the Nagano Prefecture resort, on Tuesday evening to exchange greetings.

Hosokawa said he will also meet Shusei Tanaka, his special adviser, and Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Hatoyama, to discuss his first policy speech in the Diet scheduled for August 23. Hosokawa will also have discussions with advisers and business leaders.

He will return to Tokyo on Wednesday evening.

Industry Official: Bad 1993 Rice Harvest Feared
OW1608122693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 KYODO—Japan will probably seek emergency rice imports if the nation's 1993 rice harvest proves as bad as feared due to a long spell of inclement weather, rice industry sources said Monday [16 August]. But an official of the Food Agency said that even if the harvest is poor, there will be no hitch in rice supply and demand this fall.

The industry sources said it is certain that the supply picture for rice, especially government-purchased rice and rice for supply to rice-processing interests, will tighten this fall until next year.

The shortage will stem from a decline in stocks of government-purchased rice at the end of the 1993 rice-producing year ending October 31, the sources said, predicting the stocks will fall to about 260,000 tons. In addition, 50,000 tons of rice produced in 1993 for use in the 1994 rice year (November 1993 to October 1994), will soon be offered to rice processors now suffering from a shortage of rice, the sources said.

The amount of rice produced in 1992 and purchased by the government was 1.57 million tons, 80,000 tons below the 1.65 million ton target for such purchases, Food Agency officials said. The officials said the supply of government-purchased rice from July to October will be cut by about 100,000 tons.

The government also decided that 150,000 tons of the total amount of rice which farmers are allowed to market will be released on an emergency basis to processors at the same price as government-purchased rice.

Industrial Production Rose 1.9 Percent in Jun
OW1608054793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0532 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 16 KYODO—Japan's industrial production rose a seasonally adjusted 1.9 percent in June from the previous month, posting the first such rise in three months, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Monday [16 August] in a revised report.

The 1.9 percent month-to-month rise is a upward revision from the 1.3 percent increase estimated in the ministry's preliminary report released late last month.

North Korea**Kim Yong-sam Hosts Banquet for Castro's Birthday***SK1308053793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451
GMT 13 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 13 (KCNA)—The Foreign Ministry arranged a banquet Thursday on the 67th birthday of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

Invited there were Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and embassy officials and Cuban guests.

Speaking at the banquet, Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister, said that Comrade Fidel Castro enjoys deep respect and trust among the Cuban people and the world people for his devoted service to the Cuban people and his great exploits for the revolution and for his independent stand, revolutionary principle, revolutionary passion, indomitable will and tested leadership ability. He further said:

"Korea-Cuba friendship is a noble friendship based on particular intimacy between the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz.

"We will make every possible effort to further consolidate and develop the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Cuba, upholding the intention of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander."

Ambassador Juan Jose Leon Vega spoke next.

Noting that to defend socialism is a task assigned to Korea and Cuba, he said: "We will surely win victory as we have two great peoples, two great parties and two great leaders, the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song and our supreme commander Comrade Fidel Castro".

"We support the '10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country' put forward by Comrade Kim Il-song, considering it to be a foundation for realizing the desire of the 70 million Korean people to live in one reunified country.

"Whatever difficulties may lie before them in the future, the Cuban people will always stand on the side of the Korean people," he stressed.

Attends Cuban Reception*SK1408045093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424
GMT 14 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega hosted a reception

at the embassy Friday [13 August] evening on the 67th birthday of Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

Speaking at the reception Juan Jose Leon Vega said that the life of Comrade Fidel Castro has been devoted to his people and the world people. "He is held dear in the hearts of the Cuban people," the ambassador noted, and stated:

"Today Korea and Cuba are defending the glorious socialist banner as they are advancing under the leadership of two great parties and Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Fidel Castro, the great leaders. We are prepared to defend our ideas."

"Cuba will continue to extend solidarity to the Korean people's cause in the struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. We support the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation put forward by the great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il-song, considering it to be a reliable asset for the reunification of the country," he said.

Demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and their military equipment from South Korea, the ambassador declared that Cuba would always stand on the side of the Korean people, whatever difficulties may lie before it.

Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice-premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister, in his speech extended warm congratulations and greetings to respected Comrade Fidel Castro, the supreme leader of the Cuban revolution and an intimate friend of the Korean people, upon his 67th birthday. He said that Comrade Fidel Castro is the great son of the Cuban people.

"The peoples of the two countries grandly celebrate the birthdays of their leaders every year because they have realized more keenly through realities the philosophical principle that the greatness of one nation depends on the greatness of its leader and the destiny and future of the people of each country are entirely decided by the guidance of a great leader," he stressed, and went on:

"We will make all efforts to further deepen the bonds of friendship, unity and solidarity between the two parties, two countries and two peoples and will always fight shoulder to shoulder with the Cuban people in the common struggle for independence against imperialism and for socialism.

"That socialism wins when it is defended and it means death when it is abandoned is a lesson given to the people by the present time on the threshold of the 21st century in the acute struggle to decide whether socialism or capitalism and under the rapidly changing situation."

Russian Embassy Commemorates Liberation Day

*SK1508092293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0806
GMT 15 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—A friendship gathering was held at the Russian Embassy here Saturday on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the liberation of Korea.

Invited there were Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Yi In-kyu, Vice-Chairman of the DPRK Radio and Television Broadcasting Committee Yi Pong-hui who is chairman of the Korea-Russia Friendship Association and other officials concerned.

Charge d'affaires ad interim of the Russian Embassy Valeriy Denisov and embassy officials were present.

Speeches were made at the gathering.

PRC Provincial Economic, Trade Group Leaves

*SK1608082493 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 14 Aug 93*

[Text] A delegation of the Jilin Yuwen Economic and Trade Development Corporation of China headed by (Xu Liguang), general manager of the corporation, returned to its country by train on 14 August. The delegation was seen off at Pyongyang railway station by Kim Yong-ku, president of the Koryo Financial Joint Venture Company.

Chinese Provincial CPC Official Arrives

*SK1608112693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013
GMT 16 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 16 (KCNA)—A Chinese art troupe led by Yuan Qitong, deputy secretary of the Fujian Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Kim Chong-ho, vice-minister of culture and art, Chang In-su, secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and artistes and a councillor of the Chinese Embassy here.

Kim Il-Song Cables Congolese President

*SK1408104793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027
GMT 14 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to Pascal Lissouba, president and head of State of the Congo, on the national day of the Republic of the Congo.

In the message, he expressed the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries would continue to develop.

Kim Il-song Watches Kindergartner Performance

*SK1508092193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0802
GMT 15 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song Saturday [14 August] saw a national art performance of kindergarteners across the country.

The colorful program which began with a chorus of "Our Pride" included a story in chorus "Long Live Our General", the accordion solo "Thank You, Generalissimo Kim Il-song", the acrobatic piece "Rope Crossing," the male solo "My Country Is the Best in the World" and the sports dance "We Are Going To Old Home in Mt. Haektu".

The performers showed well their boundless happiness and joy in growing as flower buds of the country with nothing more to desire in the warm bosom of the party and the leader and their determination to stoutly prepare themselves as successors to the revolution to shoulder the future of the country.

The performance was acclaimed by the audience.

At the end of the performance President Kim Il-song congratulated the performers on their successful performance and posed for a photograph with them.

Commentary on Kim Yong-sam's 15 Aug Speech

*SK1708014793 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0024 GMT 17 Aug 93*

[NODONG SINMUN 17 August commentary: "Mean, Shameless, and Slandorous Propaganda"]

[Text] The South Korean ruler, Kim Yong-sam, made a so-called commemorative speech during a so-called ceremony at the Compatriots Hall in the Independence Commemoration Hall on 15 August. That he held so-called events marking the independence day anniversary and so forth in South Korea, which is under the military occupation of the United States, is itself unbecoming. Furthermore, in the speech, he embellished and decorated the realities in South Korea, and preposterously slandered and provoked us by raving about suspicion of nuclear weapons development, black propaganda, the line for reunification through communization, and so forth. This deserves condemnation and denunciation of the people at home and abroad.

As we have repeatedly made clear, we have no nuclear weapons. Moreover, we have neither the intention to develop nuclear weapons nor the will to communize the South.

The clean-handedness [kyolbaeksong] of the peaceful nuclear policy of our Republic's government has already been proven. Nevertheless, the South Korean ruler slandered and provoked us by continuously presenting so-called suspicion of nuclear weapons development that

has been fabricated artificially. This is a stereotypical trick designed to aggravate North-South relations, and is a deliberate plot to lead the situation to an even more grave aspect instead of striving to resolve the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula.

The nuclear threat which exists on the Korean peninsula comes from the South where the U.S. nuclear weapons are actually deployed for a war and where nuclear war exercises are conducted ceaselessly. The one who is subject to nuclear threat is our Republic, the nonnuclear state.

The South Korean ruler spoke gibberish about a nuclear threat by slandering us, who have no nuclear weapons, while waging commotions over nuclear war with outside forces after having deployed nuclear weapons. No black propaganda can be more shameless than this.

The South Korean authorities are not entitled to mention nuclear suspicion of someone else or of communization. They have no justification for their utterances.

Proceeding from the desire to open the door of reunification with the united strength of the whole country, we put forward the 10-point program of great national unity of the whole country—a great charter of national unity and reunification—and presented an epoch-making proposal for mutually exchanging special envoys in an effort to make a breakthrough for denuclearization and for the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula. Thus, we made every possible effort to realize them. This is a fact of which the entire world is well aware.

It is also our position to reunify the country by establishing a pannational reunified state representing all the members of the nation from all the political parties, factions, and strata, leaving the two systems and two governments of the North and the South as they are.

It is the South Korean rulers who rejected our sincerity and broadmindedness for peace and reunification; conducted the Ulchi-93 joint military exercise of the army, the government, and people all over South Korea against us; and conducted the Ulchi Focus Lens joint military exercise with foreign forces beginning 17 August. By announcing that they will conduct the Team Spirit-94 joint military exercise, they are openly seeking confrontation and war.

The South Korean authorities seem to think that they can justify their antidiologue, antipeace, and antireunification crime of responding to the other side's overture for the promotion of great national unity with a defiant confrontational attitude and provocative nuclear war commotions by raving about nuclear suspicion and reunification by communizing the South. This is very foolish.

The recent acts of the South Korean authorities only reveal the deceitfulness of their propaganda of dialogue, cooperation, and mutual visits.

Kim Yong-sam, while raving about North-South dialogue in the Liberation Day speech, perpetrated violence by blocking and suppressing at the source the site of the Fourth Pannational Rally for Peace and Reunification, dispatching tens of thousands of police troops. This double-faced attitude in which the words and actions of the same time and same day are different proves that he also follows the same bad habit in the position and attitude for dialogue and reunification as his predecessors did.

It is absurd that the South Korean ruler said that we are engaged in malicious propaganda. As for the South Korean students' and people's struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification, they are doing it not because someone instigates them but because the South Korean authorities themselves beg for the U.S. forces' perpetual occupation of South Korea, do not abolish the National Security Law, the evil antireunification fascist law, and block free discussion of reunification and the movement for reunification with violence. The South Korean rulers are habitually telling such a lie that we who do not have nuclear weapons are aiming nuclear weapons to the fellow countrymen.

The South Korean ruler, in his Liberation Day speech, stressed that so-called reform should be pushed forward. In order to implement reform in South Korea, they will need reform within South Korea, but they should first reform the policy of confrontation and division they have inherited from the old Yusin and the Fifth and the Sixth Republics. They should reform the factors hampering reunification in the first place.

If the South Korean rulers do not wish to repeat the fate of their predecessors who met with the tragic end of their life seeking confrontation and division turning away from the fellow countrymen's yearning for reunification, they should begin to follow the remorseless road of reunification.

Choe Kwang Attends War Museum Anniversary

*SK1708045493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423
GMT 17 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 17 (KCNA)—A meeting marking the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum (August 17, 1953) was held at the February 8 house of culture Monday.

Choe Kwang, Politburo member of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], vice-chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, read a congratulatory message of the C.C., the WPK to the officials, servicemen and employees of the museum.

The message says the officials and employees of the museum have achieved great successes in educating party members and working people and soldiers with the

great feats of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song who had led the fatherland liberation war to victory with his outstanding military idea and tested leadership and with the heroic exploits of the People's Army and people who had defeated the allied forces of the imperialists and defended the freedom and independence of the country with credit.

It goes on:

A new monument to the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War has been erected beside the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, a mighty seat of ideological education, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the war victory, which will more vividly show the indomitable mettle and matchless heroism highly displayed by the Korean people and soldiers in the war. The message puts forward militant tasks facing the museum.

O Ki-su, first vice-curator of the museum, made a report.

He said that with the founding of the museum the party and revolutionary Armed Forces of Korea came to have one more mighty revolutionary museum which is defending, inheriting and developing the revolutionary traditions of *chuche*, a seat for studying and learning from the military ideas and *chuche*-oriented war methods of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, an ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander, and war experiences.

The reporter pointed out that Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, has energetically guided the museum to fully carry out its tasks and ensured that the museum has been built as a revolutionary museum of a world standard.

A message of pledge to President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

SKNDF 'Condemns' U.S.-South Exercises

*SK1408083093 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 13 Aug 93*

[Text] According to the Voice of National Salvation radio, a spokesman for the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] on 11 August issued a statement denouncing U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets for their open attempt to conduct large-scale test nuclear war exercises.

The statement says: The United States and South Korean authorities revealed their bellicose nature once again by openly announcing that they will conduct the Ulchi Focus Lens military exercise from 17 to 31 August and the Team Spirit joint military exercise next year. Such maneuvers are a grave challenge to the desire of all fellow countrymen for peace and peaceful reunification as well as an unpardonable criminal act disturbing peace and igniting a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula.

It continues: Today 70 million of our fellow countrymen regard the 10-point program of great unity for the national reunification as a common national program. They are filled with the firm conviction to establish a pannational reunification federation state which is independent, peaceful, and neutral by strongly uniting as one nation under such a banner. The unanimous aspiration and will of all fellow countrymen who want to achieve national conciliation and unity soars high on the occasion of the Fourth Pannational Rally. Surging with hope, our people are vigorously moving peaceful reunification forward in the nineties. At this juncture, the U.S. war-monger group and the civilian fascist group [*munmin pasho chiptan*] have openly revealed their attempt at collusion in conducting the large-scale nuclear war exercises. This is a dangerous game with fire stifling [*apsal*] our people's desire for peaceful reunification with guns and reversing the trend of the situation toward detente and peace. The SKNDF therefore strongly punishes and condemns it.

It stresses: Turning against the nation and refusing to fulfill the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration, the South Korean political authorities intend to conduct the large-scale nuclear war exercise aimed at attacking their own fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces under the pretext of suspicions regarding fictitious nuclear development by the North despite the holding of the DPRK-U.S. talks and the announcement of their historic joint statement. This is a treacherous act against the nation.

It also adds: The United States must act with discretion as a signatory party to the DPRK-U.S. joint statement that provides that the two sides shall not interfere in each other's internal affairs, that they shall not threaten each other with arms, including weapons, and that the United States shall support the peaceful reunification of our country. The Kim Yong-sam government must feel shame for its treacherous act of plunging fellow countrymen into the scourge of nuclear war in collusion with outside forces and abandon its policy of confrontation and war.

Along with the patriotic masses from all walks of life, our SKNDF will more vigorously conduct an antiwar and antinuclear struggle as well as a struggle for the eternal suspension of the Team Spirit war exercise. It will surely bring a new era of peace and reunification to this land by smashing [*chitpusida*] the insidious challenges by separatist forces and warmongers at home and abroad while more vigorously conducting the national reunification movement.

Pomchonghangnyon To Send Note to U.S. President

*SK1508102693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0924
GMT 15 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—An enlarged meeting of the Central Committee of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and

Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) as held here today.

The agenda items were "Review of the Struggle of the North Side Headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon and Its Future Tasks," "Pomchonghangnyon's Formula of National Reunification To Be Submitted to the First General Meeting of Pomchonghangnyon," "Draft Revision of the Program and the Statute of Pomchonghangnyon To Be Submitted to the First General Meeting of Pomchonghangnyon" and "Formation of the Presidium of the North Side Headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon."

Ho Chang-cho, chairman of the North side headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon, made a report on the first item.

He reviewed the vigorous efforts made by the North side headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon last year for peace on the Korean peninsula and its reunification in the 1990s.

"If Pomchonghangnyon is to pave the way for national reunification in the van, smashing all challenges and obstructions of the domestic and foreign separatist forces, it must hold higher the banner of the great unity of the whole nation," he said.

The reporter said the tasks facing Pomchonghangnyon in paving the way for national reunification through the great unity of the whole nation are to strictly maintain the stand of national independence and vigorously fight to dispel the dark clouds of nuclear war hanging over the nation.

To strengthen Pomchonghangnyon is a key point in realising the great unity of the whole nation and promoting national reunification, he said, stressing the need to consolidate the mass foundation of the organisation, complete the organisation, actively use various forms and methods of action and activate joint struggle and solidarity struggle of all headquarters and branches.

He fervently appealed to the youth and students to advance, fight and advance toward the reunification in the 1990, closely rallied behind Pomchonghangnyon under the banner of the great unity of the whole nation.

At the meeting, Pomchonghangnyon's formula of reunification which was tentatively agreed upon by the North, South and overseas sides at the first joint presidium meeting on Pomchonghangnyon and the draft revision of the program and statute of Pomchonghangnyon were made public.

Speeches were made on the agenda items.

The list of the names of the Presidium members and Central Committee members of the North side headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon was published.

A joint resolution of Pomchonghangnyon, a joint resolution on the struggle for independent exchange and a letter to the U.S. President were adopted at the meeting.

Churches Observe Day of Prayer for Reunification

SK1508111793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0849
GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—World common day of prayer for peace and reunification of Korea was observed at the Pongsu Church here today.

The prayer was attended by believers of the Pongsu Church and family sanctuaries in Pyongyang and overseas Christians on a visit to the homeland.

Yi Song-pong, senior minister, made a preach "Go for Reconciliation" agreed upon by the North and the South and northern and overseas clergymen offered a common prayer for a peaceful reunification of Korea.

Hand in hand the song "Our Wish Is Reunification."

Prayers also took place at the Chilgol Church in Pyongyang and all the family sanctuaries across the country.

Groups Protest South's 'Blocking' of Rally

Overseas Pomminnyon Protests

SK1408102093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000
GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—The Overseas Headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) on August 13 made public a statement protesting against the blocking of the Fourth Pan-national Rally (PNR) in Seoul by the South Korean authorities, according to a KNS report from Tokyo.

Expressing resentment at the South side's authorities antagonizing the PNR, clinging to the trite doctrine of North-South confrontation and "unified channel" of the debate on unification, the statement said:

Why must overseas compatriots who have pined for their homeland impatiently and eagerly desired reunification not participate in the Fourth Seoul Pan-national Rally, a reunification festival of the entire fellow countrymen, as legitimate delegates? We once again urge the South side's authorities to renounce prejudice and hostile feelings against Pomminnyon and the PNR and participate in it together with us, if they truly want national reconciliation and reunification.

We, on behalf of the 70 million fellow countrymen, advise the South Korean authorities to free themselves from isolation from the nation by recognizing the righteous activities of Pomminnyon and supporting the PNR.

Religious Groups Protest

SK1408105893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040
GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—The Korean Religionists Council and the Central Committees of the

Korean Christians Federation, the Korean Roman Catholics Association and the Korean Buddhists Federation issued statements on August 13 denouncing the South Korean authorities for foiling the Fourth Pan-national Rally (PNR) which fellow countrymen in the North and the South and overseas were to hold in Seoul.

The Korean Religionists Council, in the name of the entire religious people in the northern half of the country, sternly denounced the South Korean authorities' ban on the opening of the Fourth PNR in Seoul, regarding it as an unpardonable criminal act of denying a peaceful reunification of the country and seeking its division.

The Central Committee of the Korean Christians Federation stated that the members of the Coalition for National Democratic Movement (Chonminnyon) and the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) who have promoted preparations for the PNR cannot be targets of suppression on any account. "It is an unjustifiable criminal act that the South Korean authorities brandished the bayonet at them," it added.

The Central Committee of the Korean Roman Catholics Association said the South Korean authorities are dead set against the holding of the PNR in Seoul, which exposes to the whole world that their habitual talk about "dialogue" and "reunification" is a lie and that they are fascist dictators under the "civilian" veil.

A statement of the Central Committee of the Korean Buddhists Federation said the South Korean authorities can by no means break the will and aspirations of the nation heading for the grand plaza of reunification, however desperately they may try to block dialogue and contact between youth and students and other broad strata of people of the North and the South.

Workers' Groups Protest

*SK1508101793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508
GMT 14 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—The Central Committees of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea (LSWYK), the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK) and the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea (IAWPK) in their statements on August 12 strongly denounced the South Korean authorities' act in blocking the Fourth Pan-national Rally [PNR] which fellow countrymen from the North and the South and overseas were going to hold in Seoul, branding it as an unpardonable anti-national criminal act. The statement of the LSWYK Central Committee said the blocking of the pan-national rally and the grand reunification festival of youth and students fully proves that the South Korean ruling quarters are seeking only confrontation and division.

The GFTUK Central Committee in a statement said that the South Korean authorities styling themselves a "civilian government" did not permit the joint holding of the PNR, which shows that they are also fascist dictators not much in arrears of the preceding fascist rulers of South Korea. The Central Committee of the IAWPK in a statement noted that the South Korean rulers' talk about "illegality" and backstage manipulation" as a preposterous sophism to block the Fourth Pan-national Rally. With no artifice and plot can they conceal their criminal act or break the firm will of the fellow countrymen for reunification, it stressed.

Pyongyang Hosts Fourth Pannational Rally Meeting

Call for Reunification in 90's

*SK1508092493 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0831
GMT 15 Aug 93*

["A North Side's Meeting of PNR (pannational rally) Calls For Reunification in 90s"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—The Fourth Pan-national Rally for peace and reunification of the country called upon all the compatriots at home and overseas to closely unite as one under the banner of reunification, break away from the narrow regional and class enclosure in hearty response to the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation.

The appeal to the compatriots at home and overseas which has adopted at the meeting held here today says: "We should put an end to the history of division at any cost and glorify the 90s as a decade of reunification, however thorny the path of reunification may be".

It calls upon all the compatriots at home and overseas to unsparingly devote their hot blood and patriotic zeal to the noble cause of reunification, so that they may not feel shame before the nation.

"We in all parts of the North, South and overseas should oppose U.S. intervention, intensify the movement of national independence to get the U.S. troops and their nuclear weapons withdrawn and check and frustrate the ruinous flunkeyist treacherous policy of following and depending on outside forces and freezing division."

It calls for terminating the anti-reunification system of the days of the military dictatorial regimes in South Korea, realizing true democratisation and opening a broad avenue of free debate on reunification and reunification movement among all the compatriots in the North, South and overseas.

It appealed to them to smash the sinister intrigues of the anti-reunification forces to split and disorganise the reunification movement, promote the unity and joint action of the ranks of reunification movement and greet a new morning of reunification in the North, South and overseas.

Resolution Adopted

*SK1508092693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0836
GMT 15 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—The resolution of the North side which was adopted at the Fourth Pan-national Rally held here today reflects the desire and will of the 70 million fellow countrymen to make all efforts to achieve great national unity. Reaffirming the common resolution of the nation to achieve the reunification in the 90s, the resolution says: "We will set the reunification in the 90s as the common goal of the nation and subordinate everything to its realisation and achieve the reunification of the country without fail by the efforts of the nation itself."

It stressed the need to reject the interference of foreign forces in the internal affairs of the nation and strictly adhere to the principle of national independence.

It laid emphasis on waging a vehement struggle to remove all the legal and institutional mechanisms blocking national reconciliation and unity in South Korea and define the common way of reunification of the nation.

It continued:

"We will make all efforts to achieve great national unity and strenuously wage a nationwide solidarity movement in the struggle for the strengthening on Pominnyon and national reunification.

"We will promote the great unity with compatriots of all walks of life in South Korea and overseas in hearty response to '10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country' which was worked out by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

"We will actively support and encourage the activities of the preparatory committee for the formation of the South side headquarters of Pominnyon and strive to have at an early date tripartite talks of Pominnyon at different levels involving the North, South and overseas sides."

Pominnyon Leader Gives Report

*SK1508104093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0826
GMT 15 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—Paek In-chun, chairman of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pominnyon), made a keynote report at the Fourth Pan-national Rally (PNR) for peace and reunification of the country which was held here today.

"The Fourth PNR this year was to be held in a grand style in Seoul, but has to be held separately in Pyongyang, Seoul and Tokyo because the South Korean authorities blocked the Seoul trip of the delegates of the North

and overseas sides, repeatedly announcing a 'nonpermission policy'", the reporter said, and went on:

"The '10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country' which was worked out by the respected leader President Kim Il-song is a great charter of national reunification indicating a short cut to the solution of the national problem and a most fair and aboveboard banner of great national unity acceptable to all, regardless of differences in idea, ideology, political affiliation and religious belief, for it gives a comprehensive exposition of the general aim and ideological tasks of great national unity and its principles and ways". The reporter referred to the achievements made by the North side' headquarters of Pominnyon in the activities to implement the resolution of the Third PNR over the past one year and to carry through the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation. He said:

"The North side's headquarters of Pominnyon has strengthened and developed the Pominnyon organisation into well-knit organisation of reunification movement, and conducted an energetic propaganda, forming an editorial committee of the organ of the North side headquarters under the name of "great national unity" and commencing its full-dress publication and distribution.

"It has strengthened links with the overseas and South sides and, in solidarity with them, launched a powerful movement for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and their nuclear weapons from South Korea, abolition of the "National Security Law" and other anti-reunification evil laws, release of pro-reunification patriots who visited the North and repatriation of Comrade Yi In-mo."

The reporter outlined the basic tasks of Pominnyon to the present stage.

"The important tasks of Pominnyon," he said, "we, firstly, to powerfully wage a nationwide movement to remove the obstacles to the reunification of the country.

"We should demand that the United States, as the party responsible for the division of Korea, change its Korea policy, withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea, stop the 'Team Spirit' joint military exercises for good and promptly discontinue the anti-North clamor over the nuclear issue, in accordance with the points of the agreement laid down in the DPRK- U.S. joint statement.

"We should also strongly urge the South Korean authorities immediately to give up such flunkeyist treacherous acts as: begging for the continuous presence of the U.S. troops and opposing the fellow countrymen, in league with outside forces, while holding forth the doctrine of security in dependence upon the United States', totally contradicting their remarks on the policy of 'placing the nation above anything else' in the early days of their assumption of power, and to take a road of independence

and "we will further intensify the struggle to remove all the legal and institutional mechanisms blocking the free debate on reunification, the reunification movement, civilian dialogue and exchange.

"The important task confronting Pomminnyon is, secondly, to powerfully launch extensive activities to achieve the great unity of the whole nation. That is important here is to carry through the '10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country'.

"The important task of Pomminnyon is, thirdly, to direct special attention to defending and strengthening the Pomminnyon organisation.

"We must maintain sharpest vigilance against the split-tist forces' moves to disorganize and stifle Pomminnyon and decisively smash them and resolutely keep the idea and principle of Pomminnyon.

"That is particularly important is to ensure the unity of Pomminnyon in ideology, organisation and action on the basis of the resolution agreed upon at the First PNR on August 15, 1990 and the points of agreement reached at the Berlin tripartite working-level talks from the North, South and overseas in November that year."

The reporter declared that the North side headquarters of Pomminnyon will make all efforts to defend the Pomminnyon organisation and strengthen its mass foundation on the basis of the spirit and principle of the tripartite agreement which have been agreed upon.

Leaders Attend Meeting

*SK1508114293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0931
GMT 15 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—The Fourth Pan-national Rally (PNR) on peace and reunification of the country was held at the People's Palace of Culture here today.

The PNR discussed the task to advance reunification in the 1990 through the unity of the North, South and overseas.

The Fourth PNR had been to be held in Seoul at the proposal of the South side headquarters for the promotion of the PNR, but it has to be held in Pyongyang, Seoul and Tokyo separately because the home and overseas pro-reunification forces were barred from gathering at one place by the obstructions of the South Korean authorities.

The 300 delegates of the North side headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) and the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) attended the rally.

And personages of various circles in Pyongyang were present as observers.

Kim Yong-sun, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea, Chang Chol, vice-premier of the Administration Council, and senior officials of political parties and public organisations and the incarnation of faith and will, Yi In-mo, a former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, who has devotedly fought for national reunification, were invited to the rally.

Congratulatory messages to the rally from Pomminnyon organisations were introduced.

Also introduced was the resolution of the South side of the Fourth PNR which was sent by the preparatory committee for the formation of the South side headquarters of Pomminnyon.

Paek In-chun, chairman of the North side headquarters of Pomminnyon, made a keynote report.

Then, Kim Ha-myong, No Nam-kuk and Hong Il-chon, Central Committee members of the North side headquarters of Pomminnyon, and Pak Myong-chol, vice-chairman of the North side headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon, made speeches.

The North side's resolution of the Fourth PNR and an appeal to the compatriots at home and abroad, which had been worked out through agreement among the North, South and overseas sides were adopted.

The rally demonstrated to the world once again the unshakable reunification will and stamina of the Korean people to smash the obstructions of the domestic and foreign separatists and open a decisive phase for reunification in the 1990 through the great unity of the entire fellow countrymen in hearty response to the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation.

KCNA Reports on Pannational Rally in South

Hanyang University Hosts Rally

*SK1508112393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0857
GMT 15 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 15 (KCNA)—More than 15,000 students and people of all walks of life who held an opening ceremony of the Fourth Pan-National Rally (PNR) at Hanyang University in Seoul Saturday resisted repression by the "civilian government", chanting "Reunification," "Yankee go home", according to a foreign press report from Seoul.

Rev. Mun Ik-hwan who was present at the ceremony told cheering participants "Let's advance reunification by breaking down border barriers" and "without withdrawal of U.S. Forces, the reunification cannot be achieved".

Responding to this, students and participants shouted "Drive out the United States who blocks reunification of our land".

They contended that the presence of American troops hinders talks on reunification with the North.

Meanwhile, students under the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Tanchongnyon) and members of dissident organisations, more than 10,000 strong, held a meeting to demand guarantee of the PNR opening and conducted a function of "presentation of reunification songs".

Groups, Individuals Attend

*SK1608060793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0553
GMT 16 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 16 (KCNA)—The Fourth Pannational Rally was held on August 14 and 15 in Seoul, a Seoul-based radio reported.

The rally which opened at Hanyang University was attended by Mun Ik-hwan and other South side's officials of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), dissidents, students affiliated with the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), Seoul citizens, more than 15,000 in all.

Though over 10,000-strong riot police encircled the university and threatened the participants, they wound up the rally after successfully discussing all the agenda items.

The resolution adopted at the rally said that it was imperative to set right the distorted history of the nation which began with the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule followed by national division, the war, subjugation and North-South confrontation and reunify the country in the 20th century.

Noting that national reunification would be possible only when the principle of national independence was adhered to, it held that all the foreign troops must be withdrawn from the Korean peninsula, unreasonable foreign interference in the internal affairs of the nation under the pretext of the nuclear problem be discontinued and the North and South authorities must promptly begin the implementation of the North-South agreement.

Pointing out that the settlement of peace on the Korean peninsula was requisite to reunification, the resolution stressed that the armistice agreement must be abolished, a peace agreement be signed, the North and the South must reduce arms and the peninsula be turned into a nuclear-free, peace zone to be freed from nuclear threat.

It also said that all the "laws" and institution including the "National Security Law" illegalizing the debate on the reunification question must be scrapped and Japan's great-power chauvinistic design to be a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council must be checked with concerted efforts of the nation.

On the 15th, some 3,000 students who participated in the rally took to the street and staged a demonstration in congratulation on the success of the rally, calling for independence, democracy and reunification. They pelted the teargas-firing police with stones.

Committee in South Issues 15 Aug Declaration

*SK1608103293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005
GMT 16 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyngyang, August 16 (KCNA)—The committee for measures on the Japanese affairs under the South side headquarters for the promotion of the pan-national rally reportedly called a press conference in Seoul on August 9 and published a national declaration in the name of 815 patriotic figures on the occasion of the August 15.

The declaration was signed by the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, dissident figures, religionists, men of letters and other figures and students.

It opposed Japan's troop dispatch overseas and condemned the Japanese reactionaries sub moves for the revival of neo-militarism and hegemonism.

It also demanded the Japanese Government open to the public in full the truth behind the "comfort women for the army" and make compensations for it and stop its nuclear armament as a war criminal state.

South Pannational Rally Leader Receives Messages

*SK1608112593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1012
GMT 16 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 16 (KCNA)—Mun Ik-hwan, chairman of the South side headquarters for the promotion of the Fourth Pan-national Rally, received messages and letters on August 12 and 13 from the Bulgaria-Korea Friendship Association, the Paektusan Czecho-Korea Friendship Association, the Romanian Initiative Committee for Supporting Korean Reunification, the Spanish Committee for Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the Zimbabwe-Korea Solidarity and Friendship Association, the Nigeria- DPRK Friendship Association, the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Committee to support the reunification of Korea and the Colombia-Korea Friendship Cultural Association. The messages and letters said the South Korean authorities had no ground to suppress the Pannational Rally.

Noting that it is extremely natural that Koreans meet in their land for mutual reconciliation and unity, they said for the South Korean authorities to block the opening of the rally proves once again that they are, indeed, a real obstacle to Korean reunification.

Koreans in Tokyo Hold Pannational Events

Youths, Students Hold Festival

*SK1508101693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0912
GMT 15 Aug 93*

[Text] Tokyo, August 14 (KNS-KCNA)—A central grand festival of Korean youths and students in Japan for the great unity of the whole nation and reunification of the country was held in Tokyo Friday [13 August] evening.

Present there were the vice-chairman of the overseas headquarters of the National Alliance of Youths and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) and a delegate of the Council of Youths in the United States for National Reunification, who had participated in the Fukuoka-Tokyo grand march and festival, and delegates of the American regional headquarters, European regional headquarters and headquarters of Korean residents in China of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), who are staying in Japan to attend the Fourth Pan-national Rally (PNR).

Addressing the festival, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean residents in Japan, So Man-sul, scathingly denounced the anti-reunification criminal acts of the South Korean authorities in blocking the PNR in actuality, just as the preceding military "regime" did, while styling itself "civilian government".

He expressed the firm belief that the youths and students should dynamically advance in the van of the patriotic movement for achieving reunification in the 90s under the guidance of dear Marshal Kim Chong-il.

Pak Ku-ho, chairman of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, and Kim Yu-hui, head of the grand march group, made reports, which were followed by speeches of representatives of Japanese youth and student organizations and an address of Yang Un-sik, permanent chairman of the American regional headquarters of Pomminnyon.

A statement denouncing the South Korean authorities for blocking the 4th PNR in Seoul was made public.

At the festival a cultural performance was given, with colorful numbers such as agitation and propaganda on reunification, poem recital, songs and dances put on stage.

A declaration of the Korean youth and students in Japan for the great unity of the whole nation and the reunification of the country was adopted.

Overseas Pomminnyon Meets

*SK1608060393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0546
GMT 16 Aug 93*

[Text] Tokyo, August 15 (KNS-KCNA)—The first meeting of the Central Committee of the Overseas

Headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon) took place here on August 14.

It was attended by So Man-sul and Kwak Tong-ui, vice-chairmen, and Im Min-sik, secretary general, of the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon and delegates of the headquarters of Koreans in Japan, the Japan regional headquarters, the headquarters of Koreans in China, European, Canada, U.S. and Australia regional headquarters.

The meeting heard a report on the proceedings and reports by delegates of the regional headquarters.

An agenda item "role of the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon for national reunification" was raised and discussed.

Speeches were made.

"Evening of reconciliation and unity", a function on the eve of the Pannational Rally [PNR], took place here on the same day.

Meetings of the presidium and secretary generals of the Pomminnyon overseas headquarters were held on August 15, at which various agenda items were raised as regards the PNR and a unanimous agreement was reached.

The Pomminnyon overseas headquarters also called a press conference here in connection with the fact that the Fourth Pannational Rally failed to be held in Seoul due to obstructions of the South Korean authorities.

Pannational Rally Held

*SK1708105093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021
GMT 17 Aug 93*

[Text] Tokyo, August 15 (KNS-KCNA)—A Tokyo meeting of the Fourth Pan-national Rally [PNR] for peace and reunification of the country was held Sunday [15 August].

Present there were leading officials of the overseas headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), delegates of regional headquarters of Pomminnyon and delegates of Koreans in Japan.

Yun I-sang, chairman of the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon, in his congratulatory address sent to the meeting said that Pomminnyon should launch a nationwide campaign to force the South side's authorities to make a responsible policy switchover for reunification from a national stand.

Yim Min-sik, director of the Secretariat of the Overseas Headquarters of Pomminnyon, in his keynote report reviewed the achievements of the overseas compatriots in their efforts to implement the decisions of the Third

Pan-national Rally over the past one year and set forth tasks to open a phase favourable to peace and reunification of the country.

He stressed the need to decisively oppose and reject foreign interference in the internal affairs of Korea, devote all efforts to the achievement of peace and reunification of the country on the principle of national independence and continue to wage a vigorous struggle to realize national reunification through the confederacy formula.

He laid emphasis on making all efforts to achieve the reunification of the country through great national unity, expanding and strengthening the Pominnyon organization and enhancing its role.

Delegates of the regional headquarters in their speeches expressed their firm determination to devote themselves to reunification in the 90s, united around Pominnyon ever closer.

An overseas side's resolution, an overseas side's appeal to the compatriots at home and abroad, a letter to the authorities of the North and South and a letter to the U.S. President were adopted at the meeting.

The resolution stressed the need to reject the interference of outside forces and make all efforts to achieve the reunification of the country on the immovable principle of national independence by means of confederacy and through the great national unity of the entire fellow countrymen.

The appeal to the compatriots at home and abroad urges them to demand the withdrawal of all the foreign forces and the large stock of nuclear weapons deployed on the Korean peninsula and demand that the authorities of the North and South implement the North-South agreement and the Joint Declaration on Denuclearisation.

The letter to the authorities of the North and the South said that they should assess the present difficulties with a cool head, seek a solution and open the way of national reunification with the concerted efforts of the nation, boldly renouncing the distrust and confrontation of the old era.

"The South Korean authorities must not join the United States in any move to stifle fellow countrymen and must discontinue joint military exercises with the U.S. troops for good," it stressed.

The letter to the U.S. President said that he should admit the historical responsibility of the United States for the division of the Korean nation and take the lead in honestly implementing the obligation of the United States as a party concerned for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula.

"You should immediately discontinue the 'Team Spirit' joint military exercises, take a practical step to remove the nuclear threat to the North such as special guarantee

of nuclear non-use against the North, replace the armistice agreement with a peace agreement and withdraw the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from the South at an early date," the letter urged.

After the meeting the delegates held a meeting of reunification culture, a film festival and an "Evening of Reunification" on August 15.

Pyongyang Hosts Unity, Reunification Symposium

*SK1508120293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2221
GMT 14 Aug 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, August 14 (KCNA)—A grand symposium on the great unity of the whole nation and the reunification of the country was held in Pyongyang today.

Speeches were made there on the subjects "10-Point Program of Great Unity of the Whole Nation Is a Great Political Charter Indicating a Short Cut to Reunification in the 90s," "Definition of Nation's Common Way of Reunification Is Urgent Task Booking No Further Delay," "On Joint Action of North and South in the Question of Japan's Colonial Rule and Postwar Compensations to Damages," "On the Unjustness of Reunification Policy of South Korean 'Civilian Government,'" and "The Way of Reunification of the National Alliance of the Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon) Which Has Entered the Stage of Agreement." It was noted at the symposium that the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation published by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is a great political charter indicating a clear short cut to national reunification in the 90s because it makes it possible to surmount the prevailing difficulties and pave the way for reunification with the united strength of the nation itself. It was stressed that a concrete measure for defining the nation's common way of reunification is to realise such [words indistinct] negotiation as the political consultative conference for national reunification to achieve a nationwide agreement on the way of reunification.

The symposium exposed the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists against the Korean nation in the past and said that to wrest apology and compensation from the Japanese Government and thwart its reinvansion scheme is an urgent task for defending our nation's dignity and preventing disasters. To this end, the whole nation should pool strength and wage a common struggle, it stressed.

It exposed the unreasonableness of the "three-stage unification formula" and "three key points of the unification policy" made public by the present South Korean "regime" and its chief executive. It said that, if the South Korean authorities truly wanted reunification, they must renounce the foolish dream of "reunification by prevailing over communism" and "reunification through absorption" and respond without delay to a pan-national

agreement on the confederacy formula of reunification based on one nation and one state, two systems and two governments.

It was stressed at the symposium that the reunification formula of Pomchonghangnyon which has entered the stage of agreement in the North, South and overseas calls for an early convocation of a national political conference for reunification at which the nation's common program of reunification would be discussed and agreed upon.

South Korea

Israeli Diplomats Meet North Koreans in Beijing

SK1408145593 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
1405 GMT 14 Aug 93

[REUTERS-YONHAP from Jerusalem]

[Text] Israeli diplomats met officials of the North Korean Embassy in Beijing on 11 August, according to an Israeli radio broadcast today. Israeli Foreign Ministry officials did not confirm this report.

In the meeting with the Israeli diplomats, the North Korean officials wanted to ascertain whether Israel wishes to establish official relations with North Korea, the Israeli radio broadcast said.

Israel has no official diplomatic relations with North Korea, but tried to contact Pyongyang early this year to prevent North Korea from selling to Iran ballistic missiles capable of attacking Israel. It was reported that Israel is providing North Korea with an economic incentive in order to stop it from supplying Iran with the ballistic missiles.

The Israeli radio broadcast said that the United States is pressuring Israel to stop all contacts with North Korea.

In the meantime, David Matna'i, director in charge of Asian affairs of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, interviewed by an Israeli Army radio, said that North Korea may comply with the Israeli request not to supply Iran with missiles and other weapons.

Seoul 'Kept in the Dark' on DPRK-Israel Talks

SK1708024093 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Aug 93 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "In the Dark"]

[Text] The government appears to have been kept in the dark about recent Pyongyang-Jerusalem contacts with no information coming from Israel or any other source, including the United States.

A ranking Foreign Ministry official said yesterday he had no information about wire reports that senior officials from both countries met to discuss establishment of diplomatic ties in China early this month.

He recalled a promise from the Israeli side that it would consult with Seoul prior to contact with North Korea, saying, "We were not informed of the recent contact by Israel."

But he said that Israel has been desperate to block the sales of missiles by North Korea to Iran and other Middle East nations as North Korean missiles are a death-or-life issue for it.

Wire reports said that Israel had urged North Korea to call off sales while North Korea was reportedly asking for \$1 billion in economic assistance including the purchase of a gold mine.

At a June meeting in Beijing, the two countries were reported to have produced no tangible results. North Korea, in isolation from the world because of its nuclear development program, is eager to earn hard currency to buy oil.

The ministry official said that the diplomatic normalization between Israel and North Korea would not come easily due to wide differences on the arms sales issue. North Korea has insisted that it had not sold nor would sell missiles to Arab nations. It has been confirmed that North Korea has successfully test-fired Nodong-1 missiles with a range of 1,000 kilometers over the East Sea.

Seoul Requests Explanation

SK1708022493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0213 GMT
17 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—Seoul has again asked Israel to refrain from seeking an improvement in relations with North Korea until the nuclear situation is fully cleared up, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday [17 August].

The ministry called in Israeli Ambassador Asher Na'im on Monday morning for an explanation of news reports that Israel and North Korea have held contact in Beijing, officials said.

Naim later confirmed that the deputy chiefs of mission of the two countries did meet Aug. 11 in Beijing, but told the ministry that they did not discuss diplomatic normalization, according to the officials.

Isolated and cash-strapped, Pyongyang accosted Jerusalem last October with a proposal to sell a gold mine for 1 billion U.S. dollars, the money it said it would lose if it stopped selling arms to Israel's enemies in the Middle East.

Ministry officials said Israel is unlikely to be able to meet the demand for economic assistance, since the demanded amount was about one-third of what it gets in aid from the United States.

They said Israel's decision to continue negotiations with North Korea was probably spurred by Pyongyang's recent test firing of its upgraded Scud-C missile that can

strike as far as 1,000 kilometers and intelligence information that the missiles were recently delivered to Syria.

"Seoul's position is firm. We oppose diplomatic normalization between Israel and North Korea at this particular time when the international community is actively coordinating measures to clear Pyongyang's nuclear suspicion," said an official.

Seoul, Russia Agree on Defense Industry Change

SK1608015393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0130 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia have concluded a memorandum guaranteeing Seoul's participation in the conversion of Moscow's defense industry to civilian output, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) said Monday.

The memorandum of understanding also guarantees cooperation in the transfer of sophisticated technology, introduction of new materials and joint technological development, KOTRA officials said.

The 13 domestic firms and one research organization that accompanied KOTRA on a tour of Russia signed separate memorandums on technology transfer and import of new materials.

Joint-venture companies will soon be established in Seoul to implement the terms of the memorandums, the officials said.

The Russian Committee on Defense Branches of Industry, co-signer of the agreement with KOTRA, will send a study team from October to tap specific measures based on proposals presented by both sides, the officials said.

Before then, the committee will open a seminar in Seoul during the Taejon Expo, which ends Nov. 7, on defense industry conversion and invite some 50 South Korean businessmen to the Moscow air show, starting Aug. 29.

A conversion display, similar in scale to last May's in England, will open in Seoul sometime next year after the terms are decided by the end of October, the officials said.

The Russian committee replaced the Industry Ministry last December and has more than 2,000 defense-related companies (a total of about 5 million employees) and 660 research institutes under its wings, covering avionics, laser science, telecommunications, shipbuilding, radio, rockets, and military equipment.

China Requests Postponement of Economic Meeting

SK1608105293 Seoul YONHAP in English 1043 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—A South Korea-China joint economic committee meeting, originally

slated for Aug. 20, has been put off until a later date at the request of China, a Foreign Ministry official said on Monday.

"A Chinese Embassy official asked for the postponement of the meeting this morning," said the ministry official.

He said the Chinese official did not give a reason for the postponement, but it appears the request was due to their domestic situation.

The two countries planned to discuss the issue of trade and investment liberalization at the joint committee meeting.

U.S. Says Nuclear Help to DPRK 'Impossible'

SK1708044093 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 17 Aug 93 p 10

[Article by reporter Pak Tu-sik]

[Text] It was learned on 16 August that the U.S. Government informed the ROK side of its position that the support for light-water moderated reactor which North Korea requested is "impossible as a matter of fact." Then, the U.S. Government pointed out pertinent domestic U.S. laws and regulations that prohibit such support.

The U.S. Government told Chang Chae-yong, director-general of the Bureau of North American Affairs who recently visited the United States to discuss the North Korean nuclear issue, that "U.S. domestic laws prohibit nuclear cooperation with countries that do not fulfill their nuclear safety missions in compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency."

Diplomatic sources revealed that even if the U.S. side enters the stage of reviewing the support of light-water moderated reactors to North Korea, the U.S. Government would not shoulder the expenses for this.

UN Envoy Returns Due to DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK1608083793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0826 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—South Korea will conduct an internal study for possible referral of the North Korean nuclear issue to the United Nations Security Council this week, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu has instructed Ambassador to the United Nations Yu Chong-ha to return to headquarters for talks on coordination, and Yu will be in Seoul from Tuesday to Saturday.

Yu and relevant officials will discuss what future steps are necessary if North Korea continues to refuse outside inspection of its suspected nuclear facilities and will coordinate strategies in negotiating with Security Council members, the officials said.

The ambassador will brief Han on issues and preparations for the next U.N. General Assembly, opening next month, they said.

IAEA, Seoul Invite North to Reactors Seminar

*SK1708095093 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
17 Aug 93 p 2*

[Text] An International seminar on atomic reactors will be held in Seoul from 18 to 21 August under the joint auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and Korea Electric Power Corporation.

The IAEA has already invited North Korea to the seminar in which high-level IAEA officials and delegations from 60 countries are expected to participate.

In connection with this, a government authority said: "It is still unclear whether North Korea will attend the seminar." He added: "Once North Korea's nuclear inspection issue is settled, then North Korea would be able to attend the seminar and discuss the peaceful use of atomic power technology."

North Korea has asked the United States to provide the necessary technology for replacing its graphite moderated reactors with light water moderated reactors.

"A large number of experts on atomic power technology are expected to participate in the seminar. They will mainly discuss the issues of developing the next generation of atomic reactors," he said.

Defense Minister Discusses Military Reforms

SK1708075293 Seoul KBS-2 Television Network in Korean 1334 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Interview with Kwon Yong-hae, ROK defense minister, by anchors Kim Kwang-il and Yi Kyu-won on the "News Show" program at a KBS studio in Seoul—live]

[Text] [Kim Kwang-il] Our armed forces are changing. The systems of the armed forces have changed, their consciousness has changed, and so has their role. In the trend of changes, our armed forces are taking on new features and transforming themselves. We have invited Defense Minister Kwon Yong-hae this evening to look into the status of our armed forces in the six months since the advent of the new government.

The Defense Ministry may be the department which has undergone the greatest change and reform among all the ministries and departments of the country. Please tell us something about it.

[Kwon Yong-hae] No one can contradict the onslaught of reform. In particular, reform in our armed forces, an enormous organization with characteristics unique to the armed forces, has been a hefty task involving many problems.

In the process of implementing reforms, one may note that reform was prompted by various incidents and

accidents rather than the initiation of the reform in a premeditated manner. We were, in a way, compelled to follow the course of reform without a plan worked out in advance.

Nevertheless, reform in the armed forces, including those reforms we have already carried out, were necessary. In the course of reform, many men in the military were revealed to have been involved in irregularities and malpractice, which compelled us to bear the pain of excising the affected part. The armed forces are trying to turn this opportunity into a blessing in disguise to be born again.

[Yi Kyu-won] Some people are worried that the reform could adversely affect the morale of the armed forces. What about the issue of morale?

[Kwon] It is true that the military has been the object of criticism and admonition by the people and journalists because of past irregularities committed by a number of high-ranking military figures and political acts involving the military which were exposed in the process of the reform. In this process, morale was affected to a degree. But the morale of the military is represented not by the morale of some high-ranking generals and senior officers but by the morale of the officers and men of the three services of the armed forces who are fulfilling their fundamental duties in the field. I can assure the people that the morale of those officers and men of the armed forces remains unaffected.

[Kim] There was a private organization called Hanahoe in the military and it caused considerable sensation in society. Do problems still exist in the military in relation with Hanahoe?

[Kwon] It is far from desirable that the military or any other organization has such a private organization. In the past, such an organization existed in the military. Those who belonged to Hanahoe in the past have joined us in the course of the reform with a renewed resolve. Therefore, we do not have to worry about it now.

[Yi] The party-government consultative meeting held on 5 August discussed measures to improve the reservist system. Has a final plan been worked out yet?

[Kwon] A final plan has been worked out between the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the government. The plan has yet to be approved by the cabinet. Thirteen urgent problems for the military need to be improved. I understand the reservist system was the matter in which the people were the most interested. In the past, serving in the reservist forces was an additional extended military duty to active service. Basing the reservist term on one's age, for example, up to 33, resulted in the unreasonable phenomenon that those who joined the army early had to serve in the reservist forces longer. Therefore, we are going to revise the system so that one has to serve in the reservist forces for eight years irrespective of age. We have been conducting an annual mobile exercise for three nights and four days. We are going to reduce it

by a day or so. The training time for ordinary reservists will be reduced by half, from 16 hours to eight hours. Thus we intend to make improvements for the convenience of the people and for the fair implementation of military duty. While we reduce the duration and frequency of training, we intend to improve the quality of the training with thorough preparations for it.

[Kim] The North Korean nuclear issue has not been resolved yet. North Korea has been stepping up preparations for war, deploying Nodong-1 missiles while the nuclear issue remains unresolved. What is the North Korean scheme behind this, and what is our posture to cope with it?

[Kwon] Forty years have passed since the signing of the armistice agreement. North Korea held a huge mass rally describing it as the 40th anniversary of war victory. Over 1 million people were mobilized for the rally. At the same time, North Korea is stepping up war preparations with the Nodong-1 missiles with a range of over 1,000 km and 240-mm projector guns [pangsapo], while the North Korean people's economic lives are in destitution. The North Korean people cannot afford to light their rooms as they wish. Their fuel shortage is so serious that fishing vessels are using sails from time to time when the wind is suitable. However, North Korea has conducted more military exercises this year than it did in previous years. From this military perspective, I think that North Korea's preparations for war and its ambition to invade the South have not changed.

In case you need a supplementary explanation, I have brought with me a chart here. As you see, despite their economic destitution, they built the Three Revolutions Exhibition Center. They also built Romeo-class submarines. North Korea has about 25 of them. North Korea is producing 23-mm magnetic anti-aircraft guns. North Korea has considerable ability to produce military equipment. North Korea has 170 mm self-propelled guns, 240 mm projector guns with a range of 70 km. If they fire the 240 mm projector gun from their position, the range will reach Suwon. They have developed Scud missiles with a range of over 500 km up to 1,000 km. The range of 500 km will cover the entire area of the Korean peninsula. The range of 1,000 km will cover two thirds of Japan. Therefore, Japan is considerably alarmed by this.

[Kim] You mentioned the Romeo-class submarine. We also produced and launched submarines. How do our submarines compare with the North Korean submarines in performance?

[Kwon] As for performance, our submarines are the most modern type with far superior fire control equipment to what North Korea has.

[Yi] With the launch of the new government, the military has been changing much, we think. What do you think should be the position and role of the military under the civilian government?

[Kwon] You may be comparing the military under the civilian government with that under the military regime. I believe that the military should be faithful to its primary mission. In the civilian government, the Army should guarantee the liberal and democratic system and the superiority of our system. In order to do so, the Army should completely adhere to its primary mission to protect the people's lives and property. It should not be interested in politics under any circumstances, and political circles should not use the Army for any political purpose. It is the objective of the Army under the civilian government to fulfill its primary mission like the ox working a millstone.

Kim Yong-sun, Chong Sin-hyok Named on CPRF

SK1608131493 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1225 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] The North Korean central broadcasting station has reported that Kim Yong-sun, party secretary and chairman of the Reunification Policy Committee [tongil-jongchaek wiwonjang] of the Supreme People's Assembly, and Chong Sin-hyok, who was dismissed from the chairmanship of the Chondoist Chongu Party last month, were recently appointed vice chairmen of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF], the organization used by North Korea in handling affairs with the South. Therefore, Kim Yong-sun will reportedly be in charge of not only North-South dialogue but also strategies toward the South.

Students, Police 'Clash' at Yonsei University

SK1308132793 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1235 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Some 3,000 students from the National League of College Student Organizations assembled near Yonsei University and Sinchon Station this afternoon. They tried to enter the Yonsei University campus, the site of the pannational rally, but the police blocked their entry. Some 900 students violently resisted the police with wooden sticks and steel pipes in front of Yonsei University's main gate, while the police stopped them with tear gas. Some 20 policemen and students were injured in the clash.

Hanyang University Planned Pannational Rally Site

Contact With North Prohibited

SK1408013293 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0010 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] The headquarters for promoting the pannational rally plans to hold events associated with the pannational rally until tomorrow, including the opening ceremony to be held at Hanyang University this morning. Meanwhile, the police deployed about 8,000 combat police around the campus and intensified checks and searches. Tension has been heightened.

Since their events in Yonsei University were blocked, the headquarters for promoting the pannational rally changed its venue to Hanyang University last night and held cultural events with the participation of some 11,000 people including those from opposition circles and students. Headquarters plans to hold an opening ceremony this morning and to hold other events as scheduled.

The police deployed 8,000 combat police from 75 companies around Hanyang University. They are checking the entry of students of other universities into the campus. The police assumed the alert standing for possible emergencies.

In the event that the students attempt to make telephone contact with North Korea, the police will send police forces into the campus and will forcibly disperse the students.

Pannational Rally Begins

SK1408135893 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1216 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] Despite the government's policy of not allowing the pannational rally, the South side headquarters for the promotion of the pannational rally held the Fourth Pannational Rally at Hanyang University this afternoon. Students attempted to take to the streets, breaking their earlier promise, and paralyzed traffic in that area.

Reporter Sin Chun-pom reports:

[Begin Sin recording] Some 15,000 people, including those from dissident circles and students, participated in the opening ceremony of the Fourth Pannational Rally held at Hanyang University today.

The South side headquarters for the promotion of the pannational rally had planned to stage the rally with the attendance of delegations from the North and overseas on 15 August, the National Independence Day. However, it canceled the rally due to the government's policy not to permit the pannational rally.

The South headquarters announced that it will exchange the results of the rallies to be held simultaneously in the South, the North, and overseas on 15 August through facsimile because making telephone contact with North Korea is against the law.

Prior to the opening ceremony, the South headquarters said that the participants of the rally would not take to the streets during the rally. However, the promise was broken as soon as the opening ceremony ended. Some 500 students, armed themselves with steel pipes, threw rocks at the riot police, and paralyzed traffic in the area for an hour. [end recording]

Rally Ends in Ceremony

SK1508075893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0745 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 15 (YONHAP)—The Southern headquarters of the pan-national conference completed the two-day fourth meeting of the conference in a closing ceremony held at the Hanyang University campus Sunday afternoon.

The main fourth meeting was held earlier in the day at the university's third education hall, where conference Chairman Mun Ik-hwan and 177 other dissident leaders urged the Seoul government to implement the basic South-North agreement and repeal the National Security Law.

In a resolution, the meeting said that if the basic agreement were translated into action faithfully, half-century-long confrontation between South and North Korea could be ended and reconciliation and durable peace could take root.

The conference's Southern headquarters called off an initially planned telephone conference with the Northern headquarters as such telephone talks were now allowed by law.

The headquarters instead tried to receive a report on the Northern headquarters' meeting through facsimile. But, there were no words from the North, a headquarters official said.

Following the closing ceremony, about 8,000 activist students hit the streets, staging scattered demonstrations along Tachak-ro and several major streets in Seoul.

'Human Chains' Show 'Craving' for Unification

SK1508123393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0952 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 15 (YONHAP)—Huge human chains extending 48 kilometers from Seoul to Imjinkak just South of the truce line in the western front were formed Sunday, the 48th anniversary of national liberation, as a sign of national craving for unification.

Some 55,000 people, mostly of Seoul, took part in the chain forming all along the way from Tongnimmun or the independence gate in Seoul to Imjinkak. They were from 55 religious and social organizations.

The participating people lined the distance in one long queue beginning around 3 P.M. before they took each other's hands at 6:20 P.M. to perfect the long human chains.

At the time the chains were formed, some 1,300 churches along the chains tolled bells to join the wish for unification.

Former Army Head Claims Framing by Chon Tu-hwan*SK1608081393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT
16 Aug 93*

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—Former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Chong Sung-hwa claimed on Monday that he was framed in December 1979 by then-Maj. Gen. Chon Tu-hwan so that Chon could arrest him and use his troops in a coup d'etat.

"It was a flagrant mutiny and insurrection," he said of his arrest by Chon, who was commanding the investigation into the assassination of President Pak Chong-hui.

Chon's coup came as the political situation was improving with the inauguration of President Choe Kyu-ha and the indictment of Pak's killer, Kim Chae-kyu, he said.

Chong, martial law commander in December 1979, was answering the prosecution's questions regarding a suit that he and 21 other coup victims have brought against Former Presidents Chon and No Tae-u and 32 others charging them with mutiny and murder.

Chong was chiefly asked how he was taken from his official residence, what he was asked by Chon's people, how the coup plotters mobilized troops and why an armed conflict broke out.

He said that Chon and his followers arrested him and sealed up President Choe in his residence in violation of rules requiring movement of troops or ammunition trucks in the capital to have the Army chief of staff's approval.

The prosecution will question the other 21 plaintiffs, including then-capital Garrison Commander Maj. Gen. Chang Tae-wan, then-Army Provost Marshal Brig. Gen. Kim Chin-ki, then-Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Maj. Gen. Ha So-kon, then-joint Staff Director Lt. Gen. Mun Hong-ku of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and then-third Army Commander Lt. Gen. Yi Kon-yong, by Aug. 27, a prosecution spokesman said.

The prosecution would also question Choe, then-Defense Minister No Chae-hyon, then-Prime Minister Sin Hyon-hwak and then-Chief Presidential Secretary Choe Kwang-su, he added.

If Former Presidents Chon and No should be questioned would be decided after questioning the victims, he said.

Board To Question Former Presidents in Writing*SK1608121193 Seoul YONHAP in English 1156 GMT
16 Aug 93*

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—The Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) plans to pose written questionnaires to Former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No

Tae-u in connection with the construction of the "Peace Dam" and the Yulgok arms purchase project, respectively.

"BAI chairman Yi Hoe-chang seems to have decided that the two ex-presidents have to be questioned in any manner available," said a BAI official on Monday.

The official said he understands the method of questioning will be to send written questionnaires to them in view of their being former presidents.

Another BAI official said his board's schedule calls for questioning Chon and No in writing this week, completion of its probe into the "Peace Dam" and Yulgok cases by next week, and announcing the final outcome of the probe around Aug. 31.

Meanwhile, a source close to Chon and No said the two former presidents may consider answering such questions if they are designed for the two to explain their position over the controversial cases.

Board Notifies Chon, No*SK1708053893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0457 GMT
17 Aug 93*

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—The Board of Audit and Inspection [BAI] sent letters to former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u on Monday and Tuesday, respectively, asking them to explain their roles in construction of the Peace Dam and in the Yulgok plan for modernization of the armed forces.

Chon's letter asks who decided to build the Peace Dam, if he knew about the exaggeration of the threat from a release of water by North Korea's Mt. Kumgang Dam, on what basis the North Korean threat was put at 20 billion tons of water, why construction of the dam was hurried and why he personally chose the contractors, BAI Secretary-General Hwang Yong-ha said.

No's letter asks if he ordered the change from the F-18 to the F-16 for Korea's next-generation fighter for the Air Force, and if so, why, Hwang said.

The two former presidents had been asked to reply to their letters by next Monday and Tuesday, respectively, and the BAI would conclude its investigations of the two cases by the end of the month, he said.

The U.S. Government, though it had promised to cooperate in the Yulgok investigation, had not turned over any material regarding the military modernization plan, Hwang said.

Chon, No Prepare Answers*SK1708110093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1028 GMT
17 Aug 93*

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—Former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u have begun to prepare answers to the written questionnaires handed to them by

the Board of Audit and Inspection (BAI) on Monday and Tuesday, respectively, over their roles in the construction of the "Peace Dam" and the Yulgok arms purchase project.

Aides to the two ex-presidents said their bosses would decide whether to answer the questionnaires after they examined them carefully.

But, sources said the two former presidents have tentatively decided to answer the BAI questions as they are designed not to investigate them for possible irregularities but to provide chances for the two to explain their positions over the controversial issues.

"There will be no problem in preparing answers to questions regarding the change of a next-generation Air Force fighter model from the initially selected F-18 to F-16 because it was a sort of a governing act," an aide to No said.

The Board of Audit and Inspection plans to conclude its special probe into the construction of the "Peace Dam" and Yulgok arms procurement project once replies are received from the two former presidents.

Government Denies Currency Reform Rumors

*SK1608104993 Seoul YONHAP in English 1041 GMT
16 Aug 93*

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—The government on Monday emphatically denied as "totally groundless" the rumors of the government contemplating a currency reform.

In remarks made through his spokesman Choe Chong-chan, Deputy Prime Minister Yi Kyong-sik said the government has at no time thought of a currency reform.

Rumors had it that the government was planning to effect a currency reform as many well-to-do people might have stacked large amounts of cash in their personal safes to prepare against a real name financial transaction system.

Reportage on 'Real-Name Financial System'

Limits Imposed on Travelers

*SK1408020193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0009 GMT
14 Aug 93*

[Text] Los Angeles, Aug. 13 (YONHAP)—Since South Korea implemented a real-name financial system on Thursday [12 August] night, Korean-Americans have flooded the Korean Consulate-General or branches of Korean banks in Los Angeles with calls.

Most calls appeared to come from Koreans who had deposited their money under false or borrowed names to settle trade accounts or had invested in the Korean stock market, officials said.

As a result, a large amount of money deposited in Korean banks or other financial institutions by Korean immigrants was expected to be withdrawn, they added.

One official at the consulate-general said, however, it would be difficult for Korean-Americans to draw their money out of Korea because the government will enforce strict regulations to stop the illegal outflow of funds.

Even if Korean-Americans sold their real estate holdings in Korea or deposited their money in Korean banks, it would be difficult to take the money out of the country, he said.

The Korean Government said it would reduce the amount of money an individual traveler can take out from the present 5,000 U.S. dollars to 3,000 dollars at one time.

In addition, the government will impose special surveillance on those who send more than 3,000 dollars at one time and 10,000 dollars a year to foreign countries, affecting students studying abroad or those Overseas Koreans who receive living expenses from Korea.

The government will also ask those who have deposited more than 50 million won in Korean banks to identify the source of their money, signalling an end to luxurious living for some Koreans overseas, officials said.

Premier Briefs Assembly

*SK1608075893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0600 GMT
16 Aug 93*

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Hwang In-song told the National Assembly on Monday [16 August] that the government would carry out a set of strong measures aimed at minimizing the adverse effects of the real-name financial transaction system imposed by President Kim Yong-sam on Thursday night.

The measures would include special support for small- and medium- sized companies, stabilization of the Korea stock exchange, and suppression of speculative investment in real estate, Hwang said, reporting on the presidential emergency order for the real-name system to a hastily convened plenary session of the assembly on Monday afternoon.

The Prime Minister vowed that the administration would do its utmost to keep money deposited under false names or names of other people within the legal flow of the currency.

"In order to calm down investors in the stock exchange, the government will introduce market stabilizing measures including one that encourages institutional investment," Hwang said.

The government would also strengthen monetary support for small businesses that would be hit hardest by the new system, he added.

Specifically, it will double the size of its trust guarantee fund and operate it for six months. It will also expand the area in which government approval is needed to buy or sell real estate.

Hwang explained that President Kim took the action to introduce the real-name system to wipe out the hotbed of official corruption and uproot collusion between political and business circles, which had been the main cause of corruption.

The assembly was convened to deliberate Kim's emergency order introducing the real-name system and provide a legal basis for the system.

The assembly is scheduled to listen to the administration's explanation before the Finance Committee meets Tuesday and Wednesday and will vote Thursday on whether to approve the system.

Democratic Party Supports System

*SK1708035693 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Aug 93 p 2*

[Text] The opposition Democratic Party is poised to fully support President Kim Yong-sam's emergency decree to enforce the mandatory use of real names in all financial transactions.

Renouncing its earlier position, the party plans not to take issue with the legality of the President's decree and to cooperate with the ruling Democratic Liberal Party to pass the decree in the Assembly.

The party judges it is contradictory to the general sentiments of the people in general for the party to raise the issue of the legality even though there have been allegations that Kim's decree is not constitutional.

The party, however, is ready to call on the government to take preventive measures against possible adverse effects at the meetings of the Assembly Finance Committee slated for Aug. 17-18.

Party chairman Yi Ki-taek said in a meeting with reporters, "What is important is to not haggle over the legality of the President's decree but to take compensatory measures to prevent ill effects of the real name system."

Some people in legal circles argue that there was no particular economic situation requiring President Kim to take emergency action.

"The party is asked to spare no efforts to ensure the success of the real name system at the Assembly level as we have long demanded its enforcement in a bid to guarantee economic justice and clean politics," he said.

Party floor leader Kim Tae-sik said during a party caucus that the party was prepared to act on the decree, saying the party had called for the system as the first goal of the ongoing reform drive.

He attended the meeting after a Chongwadae [presidential residence] meeting President Kim hosted for the three key post holders of the two parties.

Meantime, the party's policy committee prepared party countermeasures to offset the possible ill effects that could stem from the enactment of the system.

In accordance with the party device, the government is asked to take steps to save small business companies collapsing in the wake of the sudden economic therapy.

It calls for expansion of the money supply for companies suffering from a financial pinch including 100 percent discounting of "genuine" commercial bills.

It also demanded immediate release from the national coffers of 22 billion won earmarked for the assistance of the small companies for this year.

Real Estate Requires Approval

*SK1608081693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0612 GMT
16 Aug 93*

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—Government approval for the sale or purchase of land will be required throughout the entire country, the government said Monday. It did not say when the change would take effect or give any more details.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] responded by making an objection to expanding the area where land deals are subject to government approval.

Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong told a general meeting of DLP lawmakers that the area of land requiring government approval would be expanded nationwide and the special area, which is to be selected by the office of national tax administration, would be expanded if it were necessary.

Hong was briefing the lawmakers on Thursday's emergency decree introducing real-name financial transaction system.

Touching on the shortage of cash being experienced by small- and medium-sized industrial companies because of the real-name system, he said: "The government will increase twofold the maximum volume of trust guaranteeing institutions that guarantee bank loans to small- and medium-sized companies.

"We shall watch the situation of the stock market carefully and take soon comprehensive measures to stabilize it," he said.

Minister, Commissioner on Plan

*SK1708084193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0812 GMT
17 Aug 93*

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—Finance Minister Hong Chae-hyong said on Tuesday that everyone buying

real estate after implementation of the real-name financial transactions system on Aug. 12 would be subject to a thorough tax probe, without exception.

To prevent speculation, the area in which buying or selling land is subject to government approval would be expanded, Hong told the National Assembly Finance Committee.

Anyone remitting more than 3,000 U.S. dollars overseas at one time will be placed under special tax control to check capital flight.

To ease the financial difficulties of small businesses caused by the real-name system, the Bank of Korea would supply them with 583 billion won, he told the committee.

Meanwhile, addressing a meeting of regional tax chiefs, National Tax Commissioner Chu Kyong-sok said probes of people making bank withdrawals after changing their false-name accounts into real-name ones would be limited to those suspected of buying real estate.

He told them that tax investigations related to the real-name system should extend not only to real estate speculation but also to speculation in art objects, jewelry and antiques.

Under the real-name system, a person changing a false-name account containing more than 50 million won into a real-name account or a person making a net withdrawal of more than 30 million won during the two-month period for the shift will be referred to the tax office for possible investigation into the sources of the money.

'Think Tanks' Make Forecasts

SK1708013793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0101 GMT
17 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 17 (YONHAP)—Private economic think tanks drew a gloomy picture Tuesday of a deepening recession and soaring prices as a short-term result of the real-name financial system.

They predicted that introduction of the system on Aug. 12 would lower economic growth between 0.2-0.6 percentage point from the 5 percent to 6.1 percent anticipated earlier in the year.

Inflation would be between 6 percent and 7 percent, not the predicted 5 percent to 5.5 percent, said the think tanks, all owned by large business groups.

They said effects of the real-name system—confusion in business activities, shrinkage in investment psychology and financial difficulties—would continue for the rest of the year.

The Samsung economic research institute has revised its economic growth forecast of 5 percent this year with a business recovery in the second half to 4.8 percent growth because of the real-name shock.

It now expected facility investment to drop as much as 1 point from a year earlier, compared with previous estimates of a 0.2-point decline, and projected inflation at 6 percent to 7 percent this year instead of 5 percent, Samsung said.

The Ssangyong economic research institute dropped its economic growth estimate from 6.1 percent to less than 5.5 percent and said it could fall even to last year's 4.7 percent, which was Korea's worst year since 1980.

It revised its inflation projection to between 6 percent and 7 percent from 5.5 percent because of more money in circulation and price rises of agricultural goods due to the cold weather.

The Lucky-Goldstar economic research institute provisionally cut its predicted economic growth rate to less than 5 percent from 5.3 percent and projected the same or minus growth in facility investment as a year earlier.

The Daewoo economic research institute forecast economic growth at around 5 percent instead of 5.5 percent and projected inflation at 6 percent, compared with its earlier 5.4 percent.

Banks: 'No Dramatic Changes'

SK1708040293 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Aug 93 p 9

[Text] Despite the almost paralyzed curb market, the banking community has seen no dramatic changes in its business so far, according to banking sources.

Most banks said that large-amounts of deposits have not been withdrawn because depositors are taking a wait-and-see attitude as there is a two month grace period.

One conspicuous thing is that clients are refraining from making deposits.

According to the central bank, the deposit amounts with 40 branches of Seoul-based eight largest commercial banks declined by 43 billion won on Friday but they increased by a slight 16.1 billion won on Saturday [14 August].

Those branches have seen little changes in lending amounts with their combined lending amounts up only 700 million won on Saturday.

The central bank said that the currency in circulation increased by 100 billion won on Friday and 200 billion won on Saturday, bringing the amount of total currency in circulation to about 8.8 trillion won.

Accordingly, the growth rate of total money supply, as measured by M2, is nearing 19 percent at present.

It is expected that the large-size deposits made under false or borrowed names will not be withdrawn for the time being as those who withdraw 30 million won or more will be reported to the Office of National Tax Administration during the next two months.

The amounts of deposits which have been switched to real-name based ones were about 433 million won at the 40 branches on Friday and 704 million won on Saturday.

For the two days, the bank accounts with the branches, which were transferred to real names numbered to about 600, the central bank said.

Drawing attention are the movements of certificates of deposit (CDs) which amounted to 14.5 trillion won on an outstanding basis at the end of July.

The demands for CDs are expected to decline sharply as they will be transacted under the real-name based system unlike in the past.

CDs are favored due to their high return by companies and those who want to hide their identities. Before last Friday, the CDs could be withdrawn without revealing CD holders' identities when they matured.

If CD investors refrain from buying them, banks will see one of their major fund raising sources diminish.

Beating the expectation that the short-term overnight call market will see a sharp increase in fund demands, the call market remains calm, the central bank said.

The BOK said that as banks have seen their deposit amounts at a standstill they do not have to increase call loans.

The volumes transacted at call market were similar to what they were before the implementation of the real name financial transaction system, recording 2.3 trillion won on Friday and Saturday.

Kim Yong-sam Shows 'Confidence'

SK1708081093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0724 GMT
17 Aug 93

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 16 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam expressed his confidence Tuesday that the real-name financial transaction system would succeed even though there could be partial adverse effects for a while.

"People in some quarters are exaggerating the ill effects of the new system," Kim said. "But they are doing it because they could not oppose it outright."

Kim made the remark at a meeting with Chu Kyong-sok, head of the National Tax Administration, and other tax officials. The president invited them to Chongwadae [Presidential Offices] for lunch and to ask them to do their best for early institutionalization of the new system.

"The new system will settle down when it is fairly and justly applied to all citizens," he said.

The president urged the tax officials to impose heavy taxes on windfall incomes while levying light taxes from manufacturers and those who work and earn their money through sweat.

"Only then will the real-name system take root," Kim said.

Many strong nations of the world had collapsed, not because of invasion from outside, but because of immorality of their leaders and inconsistent and unfair tax policies, Kim said.

Among public officials, those who sustained the nation were the tax officials, he said, urging them to work hard for taxation and the real-name system.

National Tax Administrator Chu replied that his office would try to carry out the tax reforms in the shortest time possible and work for the settlement of the real-name system.

Sin Sok-chung, director general of the Direct Tax Bureau, said the Office of National Tax Administration would not conduct tax probes of small-and medium-sized productive enterprises, and would impose a fair and equitable taxation for low-income people.

Sin said, however, his office would levy complete and appropriate taxes from people in high-income brackets like doctors and lawyers.

Burma

Thai Ambassador, Minister Discuss Fishing

*BK1608151193 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 16 Aug 93*

[Text] Thai Ambassador Wirasak Futrakun called on Brigadier General Maung Maung, minister of livestock breeding and fisheries, at the minister's office at 1200 today.

At the meeting, the ambassador explained his temporary travel plans to Thailand. He said the Fisheries Department has allowed Thai trawlers to fish in Myanmar [Burmese] waters. The ambassador noted that to achieve long-term benefits, there is a need for the departmental personnel concerned to hold bilateral coordination meetings in an effort to prevent illegal fishing. He said that only then will fishery activities improve and develop.

The minister explained that the Fisheries Department has granted permission to foreign trawlers in accordance with the rules and regulations. He cordially and frankly replied that through bilateral cooperation between the departmental personnel of both countries, our resources will be beneficially extracted and used.

Also present at the meeting were directors general, managing directors, and responsible personnel of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Livestock Breeding and Fisheries.

Convention Delegates Continue To Present Reports

*BK1308150793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 13 Aug 93*

[Excerpts] The plenary session of the National Convention was held this morning at 1000 in the Central Meeting Hall at the President's House compound on Ahlone Road, Yangon [Rangoon]. [passage omitted]

U Aung Hkam Ti from the special invitees delegate group submitted a 38-page report on prescribing the basic principles on which the fundamental principles of the state in the drafting of the state constitution should be based. Continuing, U Sai Nyunt Lwin of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy [SNLD] from the political parties delegate group presented a 35-page report and the plenary session recessed for lunch at 1130.

When the plenary session resumed at 1230, U Sai Nyunt Lwin of the SNLD continued his report. Next, U Tun Yi of the National Unity Party from the political parties delegate group presented a 47-page report. The meeting was recessed again at 1410. When the meeting continued at 1440, reports of the political parties delegate group were read. U Khun Sein Win of the Union Pa-O National Organization presented a 13-page report, U Ti Hkun Kyin alias U Ti Jong Gan of the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party presented a 27-page report,

and U Maung Maung Htay from the Mro, or Khami National Solidarity Organization presented a 14-page report.

The plenary session ended at 1630.

It is learned that the plenary session of the National Convention will continue at 1000 tomorrow, 14 August.

Political Parties Present Reports

*BK1408091493 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
0630 GMT 14 Aug 93*

[Text] The plenary session of the National Convention was held this morning at 1000 in the central meeting hall at the president's house compound on Ahlone Road, Yangon [Rangoon]. The session was attended by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission [NCCC]; NCCC Vice Chairmen Lt. Gen. Maung Thint and Brigadier General Myo Thant, and commission members; U Aung Toe, chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee [NCCWC]; NCCWC Vice Chairman U Tha Tun and work committee members; Brig. Gen. Tin Aye, chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee [NCCMC], and NCCMC members; national convention delegates; local and foreign reporters.

U Mya Sein from the national races delegate group acted as alternate chairman of the meeting, while U Myo Thant, U Tun Yin Law, U James Bond, U Thein Lwin, U Tin U, U Ba Han, Lieutenant Colonel Taik Tun, and U Wan Tin served as panel chairmen. U Khin Maung Myint, director general in charge of meetings from the NCCWC office, acted as secretary of the meeting.

Firstly, the secretary of the meeting announced the validity of the meeting as 665 of the 698 national convention delegates attended the plenary session.

Then, according to the agenda, the political parties from the delegate group representing the political parties read and presented the reports on prescribing the basic principles on which the fundamental principles of the state in the drafting of the state constitution should be based. At the meeting, the report belonging to the La-hu National Development Party was first read and presented by U Yaw Aye Hla, while the report belonging to the Union Kayin League was read and presented by U Saw Daniel. The report belonging to the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party was read and presented by U Yan Shin Kan, while the report belonging to the Wa National Development Party was read and presented by U Marcos alias U Sai Lon. The plenary session recessed for lunch at 1135.

It has been learned that the afternoon session of the National Convention Plenary Session is still in progress at the president's house compound on Ahlone Road.

Lahu Party Reads Report

BK1708053393 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1530 GMT 14 Aug 93

["Excerpts" of the report compiled by the Lahu National Development Party and read by U Yaw Aye Hla at the plenary session of the National Convention held in President House's compound in Rangoon on 14 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed Mr. Chairman, members of the Panel of Chairmen, and convention delegates: I extend my greetings for your mental and physical well-being. [passage omitted on introductory remarks and need for national unity and goodwill]

Mr. Chairman, based on the points explained above, I hereby present the following which should be prescribed as the fundamental principles of the state:

1. The Union of Myanmar [Burma] shall be a union state, which is composed of member states and which is sovereign and democratic;
2. The sovereign power of the state lies with the citizens of the country;
3. Therefore, only the highest organ of state power, which is elected freely and fairly by the citizens, shall hold and exercise sovereign powers—legislative, executive, and judicial powers;
4. The highest organ of state power shall be called the Union Parliament [Pyidaungsu Hluttaw]. The Union Parliament shall be composed of:
 - A. Nationalities Assembly [Lumyozu Hluttaw]—upper house—which is composed of representatives from states and divisions with equal representation;
 - B. People's Assembly [Pyithu Hluttaw]—lower house—shall be formed with representatives elected from states and divisions in proportion to population;
5. Only the [Union] Parliament shall select and appoint two representatives as the president and vice president on behalf of the people; the president and vice president shall stay clear of party politics. Therefore, if the representatives so selected were elected from one of the parties, he or she shall have to resign from the respective party;
6. The Parliament shall appoint the cabinet, chief justice, attorney general, and auditor general. Their appointment shall be ratified by the president;
7. As the state shall practise a multiparty democratic system, special attention shall be paid to legal protection of the birthrights of citizens;
8. The state administrative system of the state shall be based on democracy; the system shall represent the people who cast their votes freely according to their wishes. The state shall be administered according to the wishes of the majority, but the rights of the minority shall be respected;

9. Myanmar is a state where various national races reside. All national races, who are Union-born members of the same family sharing the same land and waters, shall live in eternal unity through weal and woe. Therefore, all members states of the Union shall have the following:

A. Laws prescribed by the states must be in accordance with constitutional provisions and must be ratified by the Nationalities Assembly;

C. [as heard; subsection B not given] Each state shall have their own constitution;

D. There shall be a judicial system in the states from high court to lower-level courts in states;

E. Each state should be allowed to have their own defense force and police force under their jurisdiction. According to past experiences, there were instances of racial problems and events which should not have taken place in some places due to misunderstandings between the Defense Services and people stemming from differences in customs and culture. Therefore, it is found that the only suitable way to prevent the recurrence of such problems is self-protection—that is for the states to have their own defense force and police force;

10. In sharing and the exercise of power, the appropriate powers shall be prescribed for the Union government and all residuary powers [preceding two words rendered in English] shall be conferred to the states' governments.

B. [as heard; subsection A not given] Concurrent powers [two preceding words given in English] to be jointly exercised by the Union government and states governments shall be prescribed;

C. The central government shall be entrusted with the highest power and states governments shall be given most powers [ahnar amyazon].

11. The state is composed of indigenous races such as Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Bamah, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, and Wa on equal basis. Therefore, there shall be no domination, extortion, exploitation, commitment of unlawful act, and discrimination of one race over another race or within the same race;

12. Every citizen shall have the right to work and enjoy the fruits of labor proportionate to their physical and mental capability, zeal, diligence, and ability;

13. The state is the original owner of resources on the ground, underground, underwater, and in the atmosphere. With state permission, the Union government or other state governments or organizations permitted by the [Union] government shall be allowed to extract and use the resources.

14. The state economic system shall be based on the free market economy and a law shall be passed to prescribe economic rights in order to freely operate public, cooperative, and private sectors;

15. To develop infrastructure and communications urgently needed for political, economic, and social development in underdeveloped areas in order to ensure

uniform development in the entire country. In addition, the needs of the authorities in the regions should be met;

16. To lay down an economic plan for all-around development of the nation and systematically implement the plan;

17. Every citizen shall have freedom of worship and full religious rights in accordance with constitutional provisions, but shall not in any way infringe on other religions;

18. Every citizen shall enjoy freedom of speech and criticism, freedom of publication, the right to congregate freely, the right to organize, and the right to demonstrate;

19. In the literature and culture the following shall be prescribed:

A. Any national race shall have the right to freely create and use the alphabets they deemed suitable for their respective national literature;

B. Every race shall have the right to determine and freely associate with their culture;

C. Freedom to teach and study languages of national races in the states.

Mr. Chairman, starting from today, let all our national people leave in the past their old suspicions, misunderstandings, and blame toward one another. I conclude here by saying: Let us give up animosity, forget everything, and march hand in hand toward the genuinely democratic state of the future. [applause]

Convention Plenary Session Adjourns on 14 Aug

*BK1408154693 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 14 Aug 93*

[Excerpts] The plenary session of the National Convention was held this morning at 1000 in the central meeting hall at the president's house compound on Ahlone Road, Yangon [Rangoon]. [passage omitted]

Then, according to the agenda, the political parties from the delegate group representing the political parties read and presented the reports on prescribing the basic principles on which the fundamental principles of the state in the drafting of the state constitution should be based.

At the meeting, the 18-page report belonging to the La-hu National Development Party was first read and presented by U Yaw Aye Hla, while the seven-page report belonging to the Union Kayin League was read and presented by U Saw Daniel. The seven-page report belonging to the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party was read and presented by (U Yan Kyin Tan), while the 31-page report belonging to the Wa National Development Party was read and presented by U Marcos alias U Sai Lon. The plenary session recessed for lunch at 1135 and resumed at 1235.

During this session, four parts of the 95-page report belonging to the National League for Democracy [NLD] was read and presented. First U Nyunt Wai and Pinlon

U Khin Maung read the report. Then the plenary session was recessed again at 1400 and resumed at 1430. During this session, U Thazan Hla and U Lwin read and presented the report belonging to the NLD.

After the presentation, the chairman said the delegate groups have presented their discussions and suggestion reports on prescribing the basic principles on which the fundamental principles of the state in the drafting of the state constitution should be based. The chairman also added that the panel of chairmen will present a comprehensive analysis on the reports at the plenary session after these suggestions on prescribing the basic principles on which the fundamental principles of the state in the drafting of the state constitution should be based are studied and analyzed by the panel of chairmen.

He said that is why the panel of chairmen is expected to resume the plenary session at 1000 on 23 August 1993. However, the exact date to resume the plenary session will be announce once the comprehensive analysis on the reports is completed by the panel of chairmen. The session ended at 1540 after announcing that today's plenary session has come to an end with the consent of the chairman.

447 Said Repatriated From Bangladesh 12 Aug

*BK1308144793 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 13 Aug 93*

[Text] In accordance with the coordinated agreement reached between the two countries on the repatriation of those who illegally left Myanmar [Burma] for Bangladesh, a delegation led by Camp Supervisor Mohamed Abdul Viyad from the country on the other side transferred 447 returnees—218 males and 229 females—from 100 households to our Kanyinchaung reception center yesterday morning at 1130. The returnees were brought in by 14 motorboats.

Bangladesh Returns 406 Refugees 16 Aug

*BK1708142093 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 17 Aug 93*

[Text] In accordance with the coordinated agreement reached between the two countries on the repatriation of those who illegally left Myanmar [Burma] for Bangladesh, a delegation led by Camp Supervisor Mr. Mohamed Imam from the country on the other side transferred 406 returnees—201 males and 205 females—from 92 households to our Kanyinchaung reception center yesterday [16 August] morning at 1030. The returnees were brought in by 12 motorboats.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore**Malaysia****Minister Urges Western Action Against Serbs**

*BK1708160793 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia
Network in Malay 1300 GMT 17 Aug 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi met three visiting United States senators in Kuala Lumpur today. They are William S. Cohen, Hank Brown, and Larry Pressler.

Following the meeting, he told newsmen that Malaysia doubts the sincerity of the European countries in efforts to solve the problem in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Datuk Abdullah said that it is difficult for Malaysia to understand why a superpower like the United States and its NATO allies are not capable of ending Serbian atrocities against the people of Bosnia. In view of this, Malaysia calls on Washington to take firm action to gain support from the United Nations Security Council so that the UNSC intention of lifting the arms embargo against Bosnia could be implemented. He said this is important, because that would enable the people of Bosnia to defend themselves, considering that other countries are not willing to send military troops to that country for fear of loss of their soldiers' lives.

On the U.S. military presence in this region, Datuk Abdullah said that the United States should pay attention to elements that would have mutual benefits for each country, especially in the fields of development and economy. This is to guarantee that peace and stability in the region would be maintained.

UNMO Youth on Western Inaction Against Serbs

*BK1308134793 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia
Network in Malay 1300 GMT 13 Aug 93*

[Text] The UMNO [United Malays National Organization] Youth Movement has expressed regret over the delay by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, in acting against Serbian aggression. Haji Mustapha Yaacob, its International Affairs Bureau secretary, said the movement is very disappointed with the groups that called themselves the protectors of human rights. Instead, they are now making excuses not to execute their threat against the Serbs. He said the Serbs were playing tricks, saying that they will call off their siege of Sarajevo; but they have not honored their words, just like NATO, the UN, the European Community, and the United States. He said in a statement that UMNO hoped that NATO and the United States would keep their promise to work toward ending the war.

Mahathir: Western Trade Unions Incite Workers

*BK1608112893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0948 GMT 16 Aug 93*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Aug 16 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian workers are being incited by western trade unions because Malaysia is competing with them in the industrial sector, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Monday.

The prime minister said they were instigated to do things which would push up production costs in Malaysia so that investment remained in their own countries and jobs returned to their countries in Europe and America.

If there were many job opportunities in their own countries, they could press for higher remuneration for their members, he added.

In view of this, they (foreign trade unions) try their best to ensure there is no investment in Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir said.

Dr. Mahathir said with the coming of foreign investors to Malaysia, who now had the advantage of low production costs, employment opportunities in their own countries were bleak.

Based on that policy, the western trade unions did not show interest in countries like Bangladesh which did not pose any competition to them.

Therefore, they do not care even if the least developed countries (LDC) attract investment as this will not affect the investment in the developed countries, he added.

He said the action of the western trade unions was not planned to restrict the country's economic growth but they plan to ensure that their livelihood is not threatened, by Malaysia.

It could be threatened if investment is channelled to our country and is reduced in their own country, he added.

The reduced investment would affect their job opportunities and cause unemployment and in the end weaken their efforts to get higher wages for their members, he said.

The prime minister said: they still want higher salaries so that they can have an even more luxurious lifestyle. We are therefore a threat to them because of job opportunities. He said the western trade unions would not pressure Malaysia if it was rich because of raw material production such as oil because this is not their problem.

To ensure investment continued to flow into Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir said the government should plan for the long run and at times would have to resort to unpopular action.

For instance, if we we say, remuneration should be increased then this is good for workers. But in the long

run if investment does not come, rising remuneration will affect employment opportunities for others, he added.

Dr. Mahathir said the government gave incentives to industries, which provided many job opportunities, in the interest of workers and not the businessmen as alleged by some.

At present, Malaysia was not very interested in labour intensive industries with the objective of providing many jobs, he added.

Today unemployment in Malaysia has dropped to four per cent. It can be said that not a single person who wants to work is unable to get work. We have reached that stage, he said.

He said Malaysia was now switching to high-tech and capital intensive industries which needed more efficient workers.

Such industries, which used more capital and more value added technology would provide for enhanced abilities and this would give higher remuneration to workers, he added.

Commentary Reaffirms No 'Anti-America' Feeling

BK1408103493 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia has assured the United States that it is not anti-America. There have been times when Malaysia has criticized the United States over the latter's stand on certain important international issues. These criticisms are necessary, especially when Malaysia feels that the American Administration is not acting in the interest of the oppressed parties. The long delay in solving the Bosnian conflict, the favoritism shown to Israel in the Middle East crisis, the continued harassment of Iraq—these are issues when Malaysia feels it must raise its voice over the U.S. stand.

As Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said in his talks with the U.S. Senator Christopher Bond, who was in Kuala Lumpur this week, Malaysia as an independent nation has the right to express its views on international issues. The United States as a democratic country, and the world's only superpower should be able to understand Malaysia's practice where such matters are concerned. But there is no such thing as the anti-America. Much as Malaysia uses strong tones in its criticism of the United States when it disapproved with some of the latter's policies, it is also equally vocal in expressing its support for the United States and is just as fair in its approach to settle global issues. Malaysia is happy that the U.S. Administration has taken the initiative in proposing its NATO allies in Europe to feel the need for air strikes against the Serbs so that the atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina can be brought to an end. But

then, agreement is one thing, firm and speedy action is another. The United States must make it its responsibility to persuade the UN secretary general to give his green light for the air strikes.

Malaysia is also pleased that the Clinton administration has decided to extend its renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences or GSP program by another 14 months till September next year. This is welcome news for the beneficiaries, including Malaysia. In this respect it is up to the U.S. Administration to listen to, or ignore the mechanisms of the American nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) which have been hard at work in trying to remove certain countries from the GSP status. They have based their judgments on human rights and environmental issues. Most of the allegations have been proven to be unfounded.

Malaysia enjoys close and cordial relations with the United States. Mr. Bond was here to meet both the Malaysian people's leaders, and government officials. More U.S. officials and entrepreneurs ought to come here to see for themselves the healthy investment climate prevailing in Malaysia so that the bilateral and political ties between the two countries can be intensified.

Malaysia will by no means be anti-America (?because) the feelings are mutual.

Minister on Role of Country's Second Airline

BK1308140793 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Aug 93 p 7

[By Fauziah Ismail]

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, Wednesday—Domestic and regional carrier Pelangi Air will be the core of Malaysia's second airline. This follows the cabinet's decision requiring partners in the proposed second airline project to inject more capital into the company, Transport Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said the cabinet decided it was better for Pelangi Air to be the core for the second carrier instead of setting up another company for the purpose.

The partners of the project, however, will have to inject capital into Pelangi Air to make it commercially viable, he told reporters after attending the weekly cabinet meeting.

Pelangi Air is one of five companies invited by the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department to form a consortium to own and operate the proposed second carrier.

The other companies are Heavy Industries Corporation (Hicom), Malaysian Airline System, Malaysian Helicopter Services (MHS), and Mofaz Air.

The government's intention to set up a second airline to complement the services of Malaysia Airlines was announced by Dr. Ling last May.

It reflects the government's readiness to open the skies to competitive services.

Dr. Ling said the cabinet agreed that the proposed second carrier operate routes which were viable and not serviced by Malaysia Airlines.

It will also carry out viable businesses such as assisting domestic airlines of other countries.

Iran's Economics and International Affairs, Mines and Metals Deputy Minister Dr. Ali Shams Ardekani, for instance, invited the parties involved in the proposed second airline to take part in his country's second airline during his visit to Malaysia last month.

Pelangi Air, dubbed as the country's domestic carrier when it first started scheduled operations on New Year's Day in 1988, already fits the bill as the country's second airline as it is operating into areas not serviced by Malaysia Airlines.

It went regional in 1990 by servicing points in Indonesia and Thailand. It was, in fact the first to strike up a deal with Kampuchea Airlines to operate services between Kuala Lumpur and Phnom Penh.

Pelangi Air, which has a fleet of two Fokker 50's and four Dornier 228's, has a paid-up capital of 53 million ringgit. [passage omitted]

Singapore

Air Defense Exercise With Australia, U.S. Ends

BK1408141493 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Aug 93 p 25

[Text] A major 19-day air defence exercise involving Singapore, Australia, and the United States ended yesterday.

Exercise Pitch Black 93, held in Australia's Northern Territory, involved 300 personnel and 17 aircraft from the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF), including F-16s, which were taking part in this exercise for the first time.

A statement from the Defence Ministry [Mindef] yesterday said that the pilots and advanced aircraft from the three air forces practised combined air defence tactics and procedures.

Exercise Pitch Black 93 is part of an on-going series of air defence exercises conducted by the Australian Air Force.

The exercise was divided into two phases: a five-day work up phase from July 26 to 30, and a 12-day "strike" phase from August 2-13.

During the strike phase, American F-15s, Australian F-111s and RSAF's F-16s were pitted against Australian F-18 interceptor aircraft.

Besides the F-16s, the RSAF fleet included nine A4 Super Skyhawks, one E2C airborne early warning aircraft and two KC-130 aerial tankers.

The RSAF contingent of 300 pilots, ground crew and support personnel, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrence Low Kin Leng, have been in Darwin since July 7.

This is the third time that the Australians have invited the RSAF to participate in the annual air defence exercise.

The RSAF participated in 1990 and 1991.

Mindef said that the exercise is designed to test the combined air defence procedures with air forces of allied and friendly countries.

It said the exercise provides the RSAF with a valuable opportunity to train under realistic operational conditions that are not available in Singapore's limited air space.

It also offers RSAF personnel an opportunity to interact with fellow professionals from Australia and the US.

MAS Discloses Figures on Foreign Reserves

BK1308151193 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 13 Aug 93 p 12

[By Soh Tiang Keng]

[Text] Singapore—The nation's foreign reserves have crossed the S [Singapore] \$70 billion mark, according to latest Monetary Authority of Singapore [MAS] figures.

They totalled S\$70.41 billion as at end May, up S\$1.18 billion from S\$69.23 billion in April. Compared to a year ago, it was an increase of 16.4 per cent. The foreign reserves are sufficient to finance 6.4 months of imports.

With S\$70.41 billion (US\$43.7 billion) in gold and foreign currencies, Singapore ranks among the top 10 countries with the largest foreign reserves. Based on figures as at end-May, Singapore is behind Asian nations like Taiwan (US\$85.6 billion) and Japan (US\$82.5 billion), and Western countries like US (US\$64.6 billion) and Germany (US\$47.6 billion).

But it is ahead of Western countries like France (US\$34 billion), Switzerland (US\$31.6 billion), Holland (US\$25.9 billion), Italy (US\$26.2 billion), Canada (US\$12.5 billion) and Australia (US\$10.9 billion).

The strength of Singapore's reserves, as measured by the capacity to finance imports, has increased steadily over two decades. In 1980, the country's reserves could finance 3.2 months of the nation's total imports. This financing capacity rose to 5.3 months in 1990 5.9 months in 1991 and 6.7 months last year.

Singapore's bulging reserves stemmed from accumulated Central Provident Fund savings, annual government budgetary surpluses, surpluses from statutory boards and

yearly balance of payment surpluses from inflows of monetary capital and foreign investments.

Through the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC), Singapore invests in foreign equities, bonds, fixed deposits of banks, gold and properties.

The steady build-up of Singapore's reserves over the years, according to bankers and economists, is also partly attributable to the "sound investment strategy" of the government, particularly the GIC and the MAS.

Another factor is a shrewd investment strategy that benefited from rising gold prices and the volatility of European currencies.

Cambodia

Bangkok Reception for Ranariddh, Hun Sen Viewed

BK1508140193 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] According to a correspondent of the Cambodian news agency AKP, a reception in honor of the Cambodian delegation led by the Cochairmen of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC], Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, was hosted by Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai at Government House in Bangkok.

Speaking on this occasion, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh expressed gratitude to the Royal Thai Government for inviting the Cambodian delegation for a visit to the charming country and for providing moral and material support for peace and for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Cambodia. The Prince Kromluong, who paid an official visit to Thailand last July, profoundly thanked the Royal Thai Government for cooperating with other ASEAN countries to welcome and support the establishment of the PNGC at the recent ministerial meeting in Singapore.

Concerning the relations between the two countries, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh said that the Cambodian Government and people will implement their unchanged principle in building relations between the two countries based on neutrality, sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and respect for mutual interests. Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh further said that the maintenance of good relations between the two countries will certainly be an important contribution to the defense of peace and stability in the region.

H.E. Chuan Likphai, Thai prime minister, told the Cambodian guests that Thailand is ready to support with all its means and ability Cambodia's well-being and that Thailand wants to see a Cambodia with stability, prosperity, and glory. H.E. Chuan Likphai of the Democrat Party further said that he is very glad to see that the

relations with Cambodia have developed well on the basis of sincerity and goodwill expressed by the two sides.

The reception went on with the performance of a Thai dance, which has similar characteristics to Cambodian dance.

Interim Government Cochairmen Plan SRV Visit

BK1308142693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1105 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Phnom Penh, Aug 13 (AFP)—The co-premiers of Cambodia's interim government, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, are due to visit Vietnam later this month, the Rasmey Kampuchea newspaper said.

The local newspaper quoted Ranariddh as saying Friday that he and Hun Sen had accepted Hanoi's invitation before flying to Thailand on an official visit Thursday. The visit to Hanoi, set for August 23 to 25, will mean the government has visited all its neighbouring states, and comes as United Nations peacekeepers begin pulling out of the country.

Cambodian Government leaders recently visited Laos, the first state visit by the interim government since it was elected earlier this year replacing the Hanoi-installed government in Phnom Penh headed by Hun Sen.

The two prime ministers are scheduled to meet their Vietnamese counterparts in Hanoi on August 23 and then travel to Ho Chi Minh City in the south the following day before departing on August 25.

The Cambodian delegation will visit areas of economic, cultural and tourist interest, Ranariddh said. The prince did not say if they would discuss the sensitive issues of border demarcation or ethnic Vietnamese refugees. [passage omitted]

Khmer Rouge Release Ethnic Vietnamese Children

BK1708074893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0718 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Aug 17 (AFP)—The eight Vietnamese children, who were abducted in central Cambodia last week, were released following the payment of a ransom, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday.

"I am happy to report that the eight abducted children were released last night to the Vietnamese community," spokesman Eric Falt said.

The children were among a group of 11 ethnic Vietnamese abducted by gunmen after an attack Friday on the village of Chnouk Trou in central Kompong Chhnang Province during which the guerrillas killed one man and raided villagers' houses.

Falt did not blame the Khmer Rouge directly but said the attack bore "a lot of similarities" to recent Khmer

Rouge attacks on Vietnamese settlers living around the Tonle Sap lake in Kompong Chhnang Province. But another U.N. official quoted peacekeepers stationed in the area as saying the radical faction's guerrillas were responsible.

The ethnic Vietnamese villagers reportedly paid a ransom of 750 U.S. dollars for the release of the eight children, Falt said.

"U.N. naval observers had a chance to see them today, they are safe and sound," he said. However, a ninth person, an elderly man, was still missing, Falt said.

One of the abductees, who was believed to be Cambodian, was released shortly after the group of 11 were forcibly taken away by boat and another, a Vietnamese woman was killed, Falt said. U.N. naval observers found her body Sunday. "She had been shot in the back of the head," Falt said.

The Khmer Rouge guerrillas also shot at point blank range a Vietnamese man while he was treating a sick person. The man was taken to a U.N. naval base on the Tonle Sap lake where he later died of his wounds.

Falt also confirmed that the Khmer Rouge were responsible for a previous attack on a nearby village in which six ethnic Vietnamese were killed.

"A strategic investigation team concluded that elements of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (Khmer Rouge) were indeed responsible for the killing of sixth ethnic Vietnamese at Chhkrok in Kompong Chhnang province on August 9," he said. The six were believed to be refugees who fled back to Vietnam to escape a Khmer Rouge campaign of ethnic violence in March and April and had just recently returned to the area, he said.

The chief of the U.N. peacekeeping mission here Yasushi Akashi recently slammed the Khmer Rouge leadership for encouraging the massacres of Vietnamese settlers. He warned the hardline faction's leaders that they would "condemn themselves to isolation, marginalisation and eventually to destruction" if they continued the campaign.

But Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan dismissed Akashi's criticisms and warnings and indicated that the killings would continue.

The Vietnamese were staging a "war" against Cambodia using immigration as a weapon, Khieu Samphan said. He claimed there were over three million Vietnamese in Cambodia despite independent estimates which put the figure at around 500,000.

"The Cambodian people need to defend ourselves to protect our motherland," Khieu Samphan said.

Smugglers Said To Shoot at Finance Minister

BK1708103293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Aug 17 (AFP)—Cambodian soldiers smuggling tobacco to Vietnam shot at Finance Minister Sam Rangsi and two boats of peacekeepers when they intervened to try to collect taxes, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday.

The finance minister, during a visit to eastern Kompong Cham Province on Saturday, heard about a moored boat that was loading tobacco onto a truck in order to take it to Vietnam, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said.

Sam Rangsi asked U.N. naval observers to accompany him to collect taxes from the boat, but the soldiers in government uniforms shot first into the air towards the U.N. naval boats, then in the direction of the boats, when the peacekeepers and the minister approached and identified themselves, Falt said.

"It was a pretty dangerous expedition," he said. "Nobody was hit."

The boats fled and during the retreat the civilian boat in which Sam Rangsi was riding broke down and had to be pulled to shore, a process which took more than two hours, Falt said.

Sam Rangsi has been cracking down on smuggling as part of new measures aimed at collecting revenue for the cash-strapped Cambodian Government.

FUNCINPEC, CPP Issue Communique 12 Aug

BK1308145593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 13 Aug 93

["Joint Communique of the Chairmen of the FUNCINPEC Party and the Cambodian People's Party," dated 12 August—read by announcer]

[Text] At present, our country and nation are in the national unification and reconciliation phase and are entrusted with the historic mission of achieving permanent peace, liberal democracy, and prosperity.

For the sake of this supreme and fine cause, the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], under the august and clear-sighted leadership of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and father of national reconciliation, have agreed on the formula for establishing the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC], cochaired by Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranadiddh and His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, as the basis for national reconciliation. After more than two decades of division, this is the first time we are able to arrive at such an honorable compromise.

Meanwhile, this government is working painstakingly with the spirit of cooperation to solve many great and complicated problems in the political, economic, social, military, and security areas. This is aimed at making social activities proceed normally.

With this, the Constituent Assembly is also making efforts to complete the draft of the country's new constitution as planned.

Those activities, which are in keeping with the interests of the nation and people, have been enthusiastically supported by the people in general as well as by various political forces. The international community has highly valued and materially and morally supported these actions, thereby helping the Cambodian national process continue to progress toward the ultimate goal of the historic mission.

With many great and outstanding good points, the two parties have noted that some political forces, especially the extremists, as well as a tiny group of individuals, are seeking all ways to destroy their alliance. They are carrying out unlawful activities and creating anarchy to serve their interests and the interests of their parties or clans, without caring about how they are endangering the nation or about the heavy postwar duties they all should jointly tackle.

Faced with this situation, the chairmen of the FUNCINPEC and CPP parties wish to issue the following joint communique:

1. The FUNCINPEC and CPP parties are determined to constantly follow HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and father of national reconciliation. This is for peace, national reconciliation, liberal democracy, and the development of Cambodia. The two parties will continue to strengthen their cooperation to expand their core role in promoting national solidarity and to patiently and persistently nurture the fledgling foundations of national reconciliation and unification that have already taken shape.

2. The two parties will continue to jointly support the PNGC's program of action that its cochairmen presented to the Constituent Assembly on 1 July 1993. In this spirit, the two parties have agreed to support the fundamental principle and important measures announced by the PNGC on the determination of the country's name, national flag, national anthem, and crest, and the decision on the existing issues of legal state and public ownership. They have also agreed on efforts to solve the problems of salary payment to officials and military and civilian employees, reducing the state budget deficit, appointing officials and employees, efforts to make the incumbent administrative structures work, the problems of existing documents, the promotion of human rights, and so on.

3. The two parties support all strict measures the PNGC has taken to protect to the utmost the security, social stability, and public order nationwide; state authorities

at all levels; the people's lives and assets; state and public property; national cultural heritage, and human rights. They also support the actions to eliminate anarchic activities, such as the bogus recruitment of troops, policemen, and civil servants; the illegal establishment of local state authorities; the unscrupulous exploitation of the nation's natural resources and property; gambling, and so on.

The PNGC, which has been formed in line with the people's will under the leadership of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk—head of state—is the only legal state structure within Cambodia charged with the duty of administering Cambodia during the transition. During this period, no other movement or political force has the right to organize administrative affairs at will and outside the framework of the PNGC's administration.

4. The two parties will continue to cooperate with other political parties in the Constituent Assembly with a view to completing the national constitution draft in a timely manner, in response to the people's aspiration and the nation's interests.

5. The two parties will continue to work hand in hand to form a permanent national government and administrative leadership at all provincial and municipal levels.

6. The two parties appeal to officials, employees, members and supporters of all political parties, and to all the political forces in Cambodia to understand the situation of the country, which is facing many small and large and complicated problems in the postwar period and at the stage where a harmonious and unified, national community is being established. All of us are clearly determined that the recent elections as a solution to the Cambodian problem will also end the war. Although the elections are over, the country and nation are not completely peaceful. The national community is facing the serious consequences of war. So, the PNGC wishes to call on the people nationwide to remain patient and unswerving, to advocate the spirit of national reconciliation and unification, to jointly respect laws, to jointly maintain security and social order, and to abstain from committing activities that will further complicate the situation and cause division in the national community, thus providing the opportunity for ill-intentioned groups or individuals to destroy national unity. Such actions, intentional or otherwise, are against our aspirations and that of all Cambodian people, who want the great national unification, solidarity, and reconciliation and who want the war to end. The aspirations are the supreme interests of our country and nation at present and in the future.

Also, the two parties wish to call on the countries the world over and the international community to continue assisting and supporting the PNGC's program and activities until the national constitution is completed and the formation of a permanent national government is formed for the cause of peace, national unification and reconciliation, and the rehabilitation and reconstruction

of Cambodia, according to the spirit of the Paris 23 October 1991 peace accord.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 12 August 1993.

[Signed] Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC Party; Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP.

Khieu Samphan Urges Aug Roundtable Meeting

BK1708010393 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 16 Aug 93

["Message from His Excellency Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea and member of the Supreme National Council, to Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency Hun Sen, cochairmen of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia, Calling for Convening a Roundtable Meeting"; place not given, dated 15 August—read by announcer]

[Text] To Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh, cochairman of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC];

To His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, cochairman of the PNGC:

As Prince Kromluong and Your Excellency have already been aware, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, has permitted both of you, the cochairmen of the PNGC, to convene a roundtable meeting of Cambodian leaders, that is, Prince Kromluong Norodom Ranariddh, H.E. Hun Sen, H.E. Son Sann, and H.E. Khieu Samphan in order to discuss the two-point proposal put forward by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] on 13 July 1993. The meeting has, in principle, already been endorsed by the prince head of state and generally accepted by national and international opinions.

I would like to officially request Prince Kromluong and Your Excellency, the PNGC cochairmen, to organize the roundtable meeting between 22 and 25 August 1993. At that time, H.E. Son Sann, chairman of the Constituent Assembly, will have already returned.

The PDK is of the view that a roundtable meeting of important Cambodian leaders does not constitute anything lost. If the interests of national reconciliation are taken into account, it only constitutes an advantage. The Cambodian nation and people desire national reconciliation, peace, independence, and sovereignty within Cambodia's territorial integrity as in the years preceding 1970. The Cambodian nation and people fully support the national reconciliation plan of the prince head of state.

Prince Kromluong and Your Excellency, please accept my highest regards.

[Dated] 15 August 1993.

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, PDK chairman and SNC member.

Copies to: HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state, and H.E. Son Sann, Constituent Assembly chairman.

'Informed Sources' Discuss Draft Constitution

BK1608014193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 Aug 93 p A1

[Text] Prince Norodom Sihanouk would be reinstated as Cambodian monarch, with control over the cabinet and the armed forces, under the nation's new draft constitution, according to informed sources.

And the two major Cambodian political parties, the royalist Funcinpec [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), are expected to merge soon under a new name, the sources said.

An avenue would be left open for the Khmer Rouge to join the government.

Co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen will present the final draft of the constitution to Prince Sihanouk in Pyongyang later this month, in preparation for the formation of a new Cambodian government with a single prime minister.

Ranariddh and Hun Sen will be joined by Chea Sim, vice president of the Constituent Assembly and president of the CPP. They are scheduled to be in Pyongyang on Aug 31 and Sept 1 to discuss the constitution and the new line-up of the future government, informed Cambodian sources said.

The interim government was formed on July 2 following the May elections. The new permanent government will be formed sometime next month or early October after the promulgation of the new constitution.

The constitution has been drafted by the 120-member Constituent Assembly elected in May. Most of the articles, with some modifications, came from the 1947 constitution, which was modelled on the French Fourth Republic.

The sources said that under the draft constitution, Prince Sihanouk will be recognized as the "spiritual head of the state", meaning he would become a constitutional monarch.

But he will retain power to appoint and remove cabinet members and control the armed forces, the sources said.

Funcinpec and the CPP will be merged into one party in the near future, sources said.

One source said it is possible they will come under the banner of Sangkum Reas Niyum, or the Popular Socialist

Community—the same political movement which Prince Sihanouk created in 1955, which was better known as Sangkum.

The theme of Sangkum is to promote Khmer nationalism, loyalty to the monarch, struggle against injustice and corruption and protection of the Buddhist religion.

Sources said this could fit into the prince's ongoing efforts to realize national reconciliation. With the dissolution of the two major parties as well as others in the future, it is possible the Khmer Rouge could also be brought into Sangkum.

The Khmer Rouge was excluded from the interim government, but since then its leaders have expressed a desire to join the national army and serve as advisers to the government.

Sihanouk at first planned a meeting with the Khmer Rouge next month to discuss how they could join in national reconciliation. He changed his mind following Western criticism of his plan. Since then, the West has softened its position on the Khmer Rouge joining the Cambodian government, calling it a matter to be decided by Cambodians.

Meanwhile, Ranariddh and Hun Sen are scheduled to visit Vietnam on Aug 23-25. They will stay in Hanoi one day before proceeding to Ho Chi Minh City.

Ranariddh, who ended his visit to Thailand on Sunday, is also scheduled to visit Singapore next week without his co-premier Hun Sen. Sources said Hun Sen was not invited and the trip was a working visit.

Spokesman: Government 'Considering' KR Proposals

BK1708070693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0635 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Aug 17 (AFP)—The radical Khmer Rouge [KR], in a potentially important breakthrough, met with the Cambodian Government Tuesday to indicate its willingness to drop previous demands in exchange for talks.

The meeting came as the Khmer Rouge announced on their radio that they wanted a roundtable discussion convened next week, and as the Cambodian Government stepped up its battlefield offensive against the guerrillas.

"The government is considering Khieu Samphan's proposal" for the roundtable discussion, government spokesman Khieu Kanhariddh said.

A Cambodian political source who demanded anonymity said the Khmer Rouge told him they were willing to drop their previous conditions that they be made members of the interim coalition government and that their armed forces ally with, but remain separate from, the newly allied Cambodian Army.

The Khmer Rouge's previous offer had been refused by Cambodian co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, who said the Khmer Rouge could integrate fully into the armed forces but not maintain a separate command structure.

The Khmer Rouge refused to participate in U.N.-organized elections in May, and have since then demanded that the royalist FUNCINPEC party be given full control of the government and that they be given a role to play as well.

Khmer Rouge's 9-15 Aug Activities Reported

BK1708054393 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] According to reports from the Operational Department of the Cambodian National Armed Forces [CNAF], the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] forces launched 36 attacks on the CNAF's positions and innocent people at various villages and communes during the week between 9 and 15 August. The attacks consisted of four assaults on CNAF positions, four shellings, five armed robberies, four massacres, the destruction of seven bridges and railroads with mines, and seven shipments of troops and armaments.

Eight CNAF combatants were killed and 51 others wounded; four civilians were killed and three others wounded; four houses were set on fire; and six motorbikes, two television sets, 10 cassette players, six oxen, 5.1 million riels, and 387 grams of gold were stolen in the attacks. The onslaughts took place chiefly in Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham, and Kompong Chhnang Provinces.

DK forces shelled Chikreng District Township, blew up two bridges in Banteay Srei District, and kidnapped many innocent people in Siem Reap Province. They continued to gather and boost their troops and ship reinforcements and food supplies to Puok and Angkor Chum Districts. As for the DK Division 980, it was mustering troops in an area north of Angkor Thom District apparently in an attempt to attack and capture Angkor Wat Temple and the Siem Reap provincial town.

DK forces fired several artillery shells on a CNAF position in an area northeast of the Phnum Srok District Township in Banteay Meanchey Province. The DK Divisions 415 and 320 attacked the positions of the CNAF's Division 6 in an area south of Mongkolborei District. However, our CNAF troops there were able to effectively defend those positions. Also in the same province, a unit of 150-200 soldiers from the DK Division 519 were shipping weapons and ammunition to Phnum Chhat area.

In Battambang Province, the DK forces fired 36 shells on CNAF positions in an area northwest of Bavel District while a group of DK soldiers from the 36th division blew

up a bridge and a stretch of railroad at Kaoh Cha commune in Moug Russei District.

In Kompong Chhnang Province, a group of DK soldiers from the 19th division blew up a bridge and two stretches of railroad in Samakki Meanchey District. They also covertly attacked two Vietnamese families in Chulkiri District, killing six people, including two women. Moreover, three armed men robbed the provincial UNTAC director of some belongings in the provincial township.

DK forces blew up a bridge in Kompong Cham Province. They were also infiltrating their elements into Batheay, Dambe, and Stoeng Trang Districts.

While DK forces mounted these indiscriminate and barbarous attacks, the CNAF forces in various provinces across the country stepped up their vigilance to the task of defending the country and ensuring tranquility for the people. Exercising the right to defend themselves, the people, and the Cambodian motherland, the CNAF forces especially the 5th and 4th divisions, the 49th regiment, and the Kompong Thom provincial operational unit continued to control some important positions in [word indistinct], Krayea, Sakream, and Tuol Kruos areas, and so on in Stoung District. They killed 19 DK soldiers, captured 74—some of which were later allowed to return home to join their families—and forced 56 others to surrender. And they also seized 559 firearms and some war materiel.

In Svay Leu District of Siem Reap Province on 12 August, the CNAF forces exercised the right of self-defense and continued to remain in full control of the district. They killed 30 DK soldiers and seized a quantity of war materiel. As for the CNAF's 101st regiment stationed in Siem Reap Province, it was in full control of the Damrei Kon and Boeng Melea areas. It killed three DK soldiers and seized some ammunition as well.

PDK Spokesman on Troop Infiltration Allegation

BK1608010193 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 Aug 93

["Rejection" by the spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea; place not given; dated 15 August—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. Sin Sen, deputy national security minister of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia [PNGC], claimed at a recent news conference in Phnom Penh that Democratic Kampuchea [DK] was infiltrating a significant number of troops into Phnom Penh. And he shouted that measures would be taken to deal with the activity.

2. The spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] totally rejects the allegation.

3. This is a move to mislead national and international opinion with the aim of being provocative, causing trouble, and inflaming the situation.

4. National and international opinion, please understand this stratagem beforehand. In the past, only the Vietnamese aggressors and the enemies of the Cambodian nation and people used to conduct this kind of maneuver.

5. The nation and people are well aware that at present the state power that the Vietnamese aggressors have had installed since 1979 is everywhere across Cambodia. This state power is constantly persecuting and massacring ordinary people as well as members and supporters of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party. In Phnom Penh, the noncovert and covert police forces of the Vietnamese aggressors' cruel puppets are continuing to threaten, shoot, and kill the people. And the Vietnamese noncovert policemen in every Phnom Penh suburb are a standby force, ready to quell the people, youths, and students who are furious with the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets.

[Dated] 15 August 1993.

[Signed] The PDK spokesman.

Launch of New English Daily Reportedly Planned

BK0608095693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0928 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, Aug 6 (AFP)—A former journalist who collaborated with Prince Norodom Sihanouk in the writing of his memoirs said Friday he would launch the first English-language daily newspaper in Cambodia. Bernard Krisher—a former Newsweek correspondent in Cambodia in the 1960s and co-author of "Sihanouk Reminisces: World Leaders I have known"—said the newspaper would be a non-profit operation.

The new "Cambodia Daily" is due to be launched within a few weeks, and is relying on donations of office space and news copy, Krisher said. He said the paper would publish stories available on database from the New York Times, Washington Post and Los Angeles Times news services.

Currently, the only English-language newspapers in Cambodia are the weekly Cambodia Times and the Phnom Penh Post, which is published every other week.

"We do not seek to harm any existing newspaper through our presence. On the contrary, we feel an independent press and free society is strengthened when there are many newspapers, all free to express themselves," Krisher said.

He plans to carry 12 pages of news, seven in English, three in Khmer and two in Japanese.

Krisher's plans include training Cambodian journalists, who have never experienced a free press in their country.

"In due course, when the Khmer pages are mature enough to qualify for more space we aim to launch a separate Khmer paper in the same format," he said.

Laos

SRV National Assembly Delegation Visit Welcomed

BK1408104793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 14 Aug 93

[PASASON editorial: "Wholeheartedly Welcome the High-Level Vietnamese National Assembly Delegation"—dated 14 August]

[Text] Today, Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam and former chairman of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association, will lead a high-level SRV National Assembly delegation for an official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] at the invitation of Saman Vignaket, chairman of the National Assembly of Laos.

On this glorious and historic occasion, the members of the third National Assembly, residents of Vientiane Capital, and compatriots nationwide, are extremely delighted for the opportunity to express their deep affection and high respect for the state guests and intimate friends, who have shared life and death with Lao people in the past combats. The Vietnamese delegation will bring with them friendship, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation from the Vietnamese people and the SRV National Assembly members.

Laos and Vietnam have enjoyed the tradition of good relations for quite a long time. Through 30 years of operations against the old and new colonialism and nearly two decades of national defense and construction, this tradition has been nurtured and flourished. This has become objective laws for the survival and development of the two countries.

By continuing to maintain the excellent traditions of the late President Kaysone Phomvihane and Chairman Ho Chi Minh, both who established, nurtured, and helped Lao-Vietnamese ties flourish; implementing the spirit of the joint communiques issued on 15 October 1991, 16 August 1992, and 14 April 1993, and a joint statement issued on 15 February 1992, the traditional ties between the two parties, states, national assemblies, and peoples have gradually improved and expanded. Their all-round cooperation has also experienced new changes based on the potential of each country and under the principles of respect for the independence and sovereignty of each other, equality, mutual interest, and assistance in the spirit of comradeship and effectiveness. All this has been clearly shown in past as well as present practices in the areas of the economy, culture, and science and technology.

Particularly in legislative work, the first and second Supreme People's Assemblies, the third LPDR National Assembly, and the SRV National Assembly have promoted and strengthened their ties and cooperation through the exchange of delegations at various levels and experience in law and other areas. For example, in dealing with work in the international arena, Lao and Vietnamese national assemblies have united and cooperated with each other in complying with the collective direction of the International Parliamentary Union, or IPU, as well as participating as observers in the activities of the ASEAN International Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Union (APPU), and others.

This friendship visit by Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the Vietnamese National Assembly, and delegation, will significantly contribute to strengthening and developing the friendship, special solidarity, and all-round cooperation. It will also deepen this relationship and make it correspond to the potential of each country, under the principles of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, equality, and mutual interests and assistance in a spirit of comradeship and brotherliness. Moreover, the visit will also enhance the gradual development of relations and cooperation of both national assemblies.

The multiethnic Lao people sincerely wish the visit by Nong Duc Manh and delegation a glorious success. We are confident that it will be another historic success of the national assemblies. The success will significantly make the traditional and special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the parties, states, national assemblies, and peoples of the two countries, grow and flourish forever.

Nouhak Phoumsavan Visits Vientiane Villagers

BK1708144793 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 13 August, President Nouhak Phoumsavan visited people at Ban Sen Soum village, Phonhong District, Vientiane Province. At the village, the president chatted with the villagers, asking them about their well-being, production development, and education and public health work.

At the same time, the president also gave advice to them on the implementation of the party's restructuring policy among the grassroots, aimed at improving their living conditions by processing crops into finished goods for commercial purposes with the application of scientific and technological methods to improve quality. In addition to production work, the president also encouraged the people to pay attention to improving the quality of education work aimed at creating better conditions for our children to receive good education and improving the living conditions of school teachers. He noted that it is necessary to improve and expand public health work and social welfare service.

At the end, Nouhak Phoumsavan gave advice to the local administration to readjust and rectify its working methods to conform to the new situation and to get closely involved with the people's livelihood.

Party Issues Resolution on Mass Media Work

BK1508095993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee issued a resolution on the stepping up of the party's supervision on the mass media work.

To implement the resolution adopted by the fifth party congress and to upgrade the quality of propaganda and information work to serve as the party's sharp tool in effectively meeting the demand and corresponding to new changes in the current situation, the Political Bureau of the LPRP Central Committee recently issued an official resolution on the mass media work in the new stage.

The said resolution reviewed the mass media activities carried out over the past 30 years. During the period, under the guidance of the LPRP, the national liberation movement successfully brought independence and freedom to the people. In a period of more than 10 years in the cause of defending the new system and building the nation, our party has always regarded the work of propaganda, educating people, and organizing activities for them as a major strategy. In the process, the Lao mass media has actively carried out its work and significantly contributed to the cause.

The Political Bureau's resolution noted, however, that there still were some weak points in the Lao mass media work, which was carried out within a framework of its role and duties in the past period. The mass media work has not yet gained as much public admiration as it should because its quality and content is still not good enough. It has not yet widely reflected the actual situation, living conditions, and the society. The presentation of new information, publicity of model good work and outstanding men, and lessons obtained in public work is still not up to standard. It only talked about the good side of the story but mentioned nothing of weak points or disadvantages. All this is because insufficient attention and guidance at every level has not been given to such work as it should. The spirit and responsibility of the cadres doing mass media work is still sub-par.

After making assessment of prominent and weak points of the mass media work in the past period, the Political Bureau's resolution also outlined the party's guidelines for the Lao mass media work to make it a tool for political line of thinking and efficiently serve the implementation of the party and state's directions and principles as follows:

The mass media serves as a sharp tool of the party and state in publicizing and disseminating the party and

state's directions and principles, educating people political line of thinking, and motivating the masses to jointly and effectively implement the party and state's policies.

The mass media serves as the forum of the masses, the bond of relations between the masses and the party, and a place for the public to express their opinions. Putting it another way, it is a real forum for the enhancement of democracy and the people's right of ownership of the country.

The mass media must be rich in content, create admiration in the public, and at the same time bring to them both direct and indirect benefits.

The organizations, services, and leading cadres of the party and state at different levels must responsibly and attentively supervise, cooperate, and assist the work of mass media to make the carrying out of the Lao mass media work in the future serve the political purpose of the party better than before.

There is a need to have a suitable policy for the mass media work. There is a need to contribute fund at certain level. Further, mass media is allowed to invest on its own, thus helping ease the state shouldering budget burden, to encourage the expansion of investment in the work in this field and to gradually enhance its new quality.

In addition, the resolution also states measures for practices and various methods in increasing the party's supervision and state's management on the mass media work. Party committees at all levels and leadership of various organizations and services, especially the ones concerned, are advised to attentively study trends of work and measures to implement this resolution profoundly and efficiently thus bringing great benefits to both the country and the people.

Article Views Tasks of Mass Media

BK1708091393 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 13 Aug 93 pp 1, 2

[Text] In the last 43 years of its revolutionary endeavor, PASASON, along with other revolutionary mass media in Laos, has actively contributed to the national liberation cause, the cause of defending and building the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and the national restructuring cause under the initiatives and guidances of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]. Firmly adhering to the line and policies of the party in each stage, and closely associating with the masses, the mass media have brought the revolutionary ideology, theory, line, and policy to the people, and in return they have brought the views and aspirations of the multiethnic people to the attention of the leadership. Because of these activities, our mass media have been called leading fighters on the ideological, political, and cultural battlefields.

The resolution of the Political Bureau of the LPRP Central Committee dated 19 June 1993 reiterates that our mass media have maintained leading roles in publicizing information about the restructuring line and new concepts of the party, new mechanisms, and new working procedures; encouraging and persuading cadres, party members, and multiethnic people to organize and implement the new restructuring line of the party; praising and hailing models, good work, and outstanding men; and pointing out new factors and lessons arising from the people's movements engaging in labor and study. Moreover, over previous years, the mass media of our country have made considerably great efforts to improve and add ways of presenting information. They have gradually done away with the one-sided method of presenting news, thus partly serving the people's requirements for facts about news. They have also contributed to raising the citizens' level of knowledge and understanding in various fields.

The contingent of cadres has been expanded both in terms of quantity and quality. Many reporters have maintained firm political viewpoints. They respond quickly to changing events. They have also maintained technical skills. The contingent has emerged and is promoting and expanding its intelligence, both for the restructuring cause of the nation and of the mass media itself. Nevertheless, in view of the development of the current international scientific and technical revolution in the information field, and based on the increasing requirements of the people, our mass media still remain at the rear of the procession and are still not able to serve the people's requirements sufficiently. The clear weak points and remaining problems are that the products of the information and cultural service have not thoroughly reached the people—for example, people in remote areas—and that the quality and contents of the products are not good enough to attract the people's interest. Besides, the information presented by our mass media is not considerably useful to the readers, listeners, and viewers. It has failed to reflect widely facts about the social life, as leadership guidance and management at various levels has failed to create appropriate conditions to enable the mass media to carry out activities normally and effectively. Moreover, the mass media itself has failed to build and improve itself seriously. Its working procedures have not met the standard level of the mass media in general. The mass media contingent's knowledge and experiences in many fields has also been limited; material and technical bases are backward and deteriorated; and the information apparatuses have not been considerably broadened. It is necessary to find ways to settle all these weak points and remaining problems.

To free the mass media from their condition of standing still and to overcome the weak points and remaining problems mentioned above, first and foremost it is necessary to strive to enable our mass media to display clearly the characteristics defined in the resolution by the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee; namely, the struggling characteristic, the education and

training characteristic, the characteristic of organizing and guiding the masses, and the characteristic of maintaining concreteness. To translate the aforesaid characteristics into reality, it is necessary to organize and have the mass media apparatus take on more roles in building and strengthening the harmony and solidarity of the entire people; propagandizing and boosting socioeconomic development; turning the natural economy into a goods-oriented economy; educating and training the people in the ideological and political field to make them adhere to the revolutionary goal and contribute to the national defense and public security maintenance task; drawing foreign cooperation and investment; promoting and expanding democracy; and fighting to do away with various negative phenomena that arise in the social life.

Another significant problem is to enable the mass media to serve as the bridge between the party and the masses. In this regard, it is necessary to understand profoundly and grasp firmly our party's standpoint, which notes that the mass media serve as a sharp tool of the party and the state, a stage for the masses to express views, a (?bridge) linking the masses and the party, and an information apparatus with many forms and rich content.

Is there any reason to regard the mass media as a sharp tool of the party and a stage for the masses?

In all categories of social system, the mass media act as a political tool of the ruling class. Under our popular democratic system, the mass media constitute a political and ideological tool of the political system, with the party as a core. The party guides the mass media in performing their roles as party and state spokesman and stage for the masses. This is because the voice of the party is also the aspiration of the people. But the voice of the party cannot directly represent the voice of all strata of the masses. Therefore, the leadership must listen to the opinion of the masses so that it will be able to attune its policies to conform to the people's interests. Because of the aforementioned reason, we can see that the mass media are not only an outlet for disseminating party policies and guidelines among the masses, but also a stage for the people. This means that mass media can present the legitimate views of the masses in their columns and news reports. This is the revolutionary mass media's reflection of the opinion of the masses. Another mass feature of the revolutionary mass media is shown in their aim to attract the masses to participate in information work in various forms and means, including writing news reports and articles, giving interviews, and participating in discussions arranged by the mass media on various issues of social interest. It is even more important for cadres in charge of various kinds of services to regard it as their duty to meet with and give interviews to media reporters on various developments occurring in their respective areas of responsibility, so as to keep the masses informed.

Another extensively recognized mass feature of the mass media is seen in their "stage for the masses" column, which presents views expressed or letters sent by readers,

listeners, or viewers. This is because the leadership must always listen to numerous different views held by the masses in order to understand the whole truth. The duty of the mass media is to reflect such different views and opinions. This is to guide social voices by pointing out which views are right and which are wrong, in order to prevent them from being expressed irresponsibly and unsystematically at "coffee councils" held by the masses, thus creating adverse effects on our ideological beliefs, which might subsequently be exploited by bad elements.

To implement effectively the motto "mass media are both the mouthpiece of the party and state and the stage for the masses," the right to receive and give news of the masses must be ensured by certain laws and regulations. The right to receive and give news is closely related to the process of information service. But the first responsibility of the mass media is to report news on both domestic and international developments of public interest in a timely and clear-cut manner. If the mass media can effectively carry out this duty, it will greatly contribute to raising a sense of political awareness and promoting democracy in our country. But in reporting news, a clear-cut direction must be defined. The right to report news in a democratic manner must be within the bounds of laws and regulations. It is extremely desirable for our Lao citizens to give the mass media news and documents that are not national secrets. All mass organizations and offices are also required to give only clear-cut, prompt, and correct news to the mass media for dissemination. The mass media have a duty to select only appropriate news for presentation in their columns or programs, in order to fulfill their objective of presenting only quality news in various forms and by various means and avoiding mistakes. Another objective of news selection is to maintain political stability and to raise the level of knowledge, imagination, and efficiency of the mass media, thereby contributing to the advancement of the cause of our restructuring.

Another view that must be firmly held is that the mass media are a medium that clearly reflect all aspects of reality in our social life. This means that the mass media provide their readers and viewers with news, information, and knowledge in various fields. It is also necessary, however, for the mass media to carry commercials and public service news in order to earn income for their operations. But the mass media must always keep in mind that their primary objective is to produce cultural goods to serve the people. Under the conditions of the market economy, whenever possible, it is necessary that the mass media find ways to liberate themselves from the state's financing mechanisms. It is also prohibited, however, for the mass media to carry out operations in a manner similar to those of other business enterprises. The mass media have a primary obligation to fulfill their political duty. Therefore, they have a duty to modify the content, forms, and patterns of information work for presentation on the basis of thrift. At the same time, if conditions permit, the mass media are also allowed to find ways to earn income to meet expenses incurred, so

as to save government budgets and become self-sufficient to a certain extent. Nonetheless, no matter the circumstances, the mass media are not allowed to consider business gains as their primary objective, for such an act would only run counter to our political aim and would considerably diminish their role in educating the people.

The mass media must pay special attention to correctly balancing its education and entertainment roles. We are aware that the dissemination of information is aimed at increasing the public's level of intelligence. It brings news to readers, listeners, and viewers, thus increasing their knowledge and understanding. However, our people also have a legitimate right to receive entertainment and the mass media is required to fulfill that need. The question is, however, what the mass media must do in preventing this need to take precedence over its educational role. The mass media must also ensure that the entertainment is free from misdemeanors, cultural degradation, and defamation, and that it does not run counter to our national traditions and customs. Investment is another issue that must be discussed in the attempt to allow the national mass media to catch up with current world developments. Investment in the mass media is very costly and yields none or, if any, economic return. The investment may not even be recouped. But we must realize it is an overall investment for the development of all socioeconomic branches, aimed at improving the material and spiritual life of the people. It is also an investment for safeguarding the country's security and political stability. This is because mass media activity also reflects social activities linked to production, technology, and intellectual property. Therefore, it will encompass every aspect of the economy, finance, ideology, and culture. All economic and social branches must adopt a correct attitude toward the mass media.

Nonetheless, to allow mass media work to attain a new quality and to completely reflect all party views, all organizations, services, and cadres of the party and state at all levels are called on to maintain a sense of responsibility and to pay attention to regularly and consistently guiding and assisting this sector, including adopting a correct policy toward it. But the most decisive factor in allowing the mass media work to attain a new quality is the ranks of mass media cadres themselves. The key elements are chief editors and directors, who act as captains charged with maintaining its qualitative content and linking mass media with society, thereby making it a reliable vanguard force of the party and state in the ideological, political, and cultural battlefield. To achieve this, it is necessary for us to bring mass media activity to a new direction.

Philippines

Country Receives P12.9 Billion Aid From Japan
HK1708033293 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 17 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by Johanna Son]

[Text] The Japanese government yesterday formally extended to the Philippines P12.9 [Philippine pesos] billion worth of loan assistance and grant aid, a move that for Manila proves how Tokyo's support for it continues despite the change in government there. Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo and Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Hirokazu Arai signed the exchange of notes at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Japan's assistance, which includes projects under the 18th yen package, is the first to be signed after the assumption of a new government in Japan. On behalf of the new Japanese government, Arai also reiterated Japan's previous pledge to "further expand" its aid to developing countries under its 1993-1997 assistance program and Funds for Development Initiative announced at July's G-7 summit.

Romulo remarked that the signing means that despite the political transition there Tokyo's "support for the Filipino people is non-partisan from Japan's viewpoint." Japanese assistance "comes to us without skipping a heartbeat," showing how sophisticated Japan's political system is, Romulo said. He thanked the past government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa—which pledged the projects during President Ramos' state visit to Japan—and to the incumbent administration of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa which will "implement" the projects.

The two types of assistance formalized were: Seven yen-loan projects, amounting to P12 billion (Y47.036 billion) for infrastructure to forestry; Three grant-aid projects, totalling P900 million (Y3.6 billion) for medical care, educational facilities and water supply. The P3.6 billion yen grant brings total grant assistance to the Philippines for the April 1993-March 1994 fiscal year to P4.5 billion (Y18 billion), or above the previous year's level.

Arai urged the Philippines to pursue structural economic reforms, in order to attain sustainable development and show "concrete achievements, domestically and externally." He added that while the Philippines' absorptive capacity for aid has "rapidly improved," Manila needs to ensure counterpart funds to implement ODA projects.

The seven projects in the 18th yen loan package are:

- The Second Mandaue-Mactan Bridge Construction Project (P1.72 billion) to replace the old bridge;
- The P11.158-billion project to upgrade the Rosario-Pugo-Baguio road, the shortest alternate route to Baguio City apart from Kennon Road;
- The P951-million project to expand Northern Luzon's telecommunications network.
- The P764-million loan, co-financed by the World Bank, to provide scholarships and teacher training from public schools to improve the quality of science and engineering education.

—The P2.3-billion forestry sector loan, co-financed by the Asian Development Bank, to reverse upland and mangrove resources degradation.

—P4.53 billion for a project to build a new passenger terminal for domestic and international travelers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

—The P315-million loan for engineering services to expand Light Railway Transit [LRT]-1's capacity, and to draw up design plans for the Manila-Quezon City LRT-2 line.

The three grant-aid projects are a P215-million project for educational facilities in Mindoro, Palawan, Marinduque and Tablas; a P370-million project to improve the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in the Visayas; and a P324-million project to rehabilitate the water-supply system in Leyte.

Arai also pledged to personally work to see to it that the Philippines will benefit "to the greatest possible extent" from Japan's new aid programs.

Government Expenditure Declines by 15.7 Percent

*HK1608031993 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 16 Aug 93 p 11*

[Report by Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.]

[Text] The National government drastically reduced its expenditures by 15.7% in the first half of the year to contain the budget deficit within prudent levels.

Based on latest figures furnished by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the government posted a budget deficit of P10.037 billion [Philippine pesos] from January to July 22 this year. This is less than half of the programmed P27.856 billion deficit for the period.

A government official attributed the "favorable" deficit level to the underspending the government undertook during the period. The official warned, however, that if the underspending continues the rest of the year, the much-awaited economic recovery could be further delayed.

Government spending dropped by 15.68% to P152.802 billion as of July 22 this year from its programmed level of P181.231 billion during the same period. The government had to underspend to maintain the deficit within manageable levels because of lower revenue collections which dropped by 10.56% to P114.607 billion as of July 22 this year from its targeted tax intake of P128.146 billion. The biggest cut was in the allotment to local government units (LGUs), which was reduced by a hefty 22%.

Compounding BIR's [Bureau of Internal Revenue] woes were lower excise tax collections, lower gross receipts tax inflow due to soft loan demand, decline in taxes withheld and a sluggish economy.

The BIR and the BOC [Bureau of Customs] continue to lag in their collection targets this year, not only with the existing taxes and duties, but also with the new measures recently approved.

The BIR expects to take in P159.91 billion in taxes this year, which is 56% of the government's programmed revenue collections of P283.073 billion. BIR targets include the P11.498 billion additional revenues arising from new tax measures, such as the simplified net income tax system (Snits).

As of July 22 this year, BIR collections reached P82.861 billion, 8.6% short of the P90.651 billion target for the same period. It never did generate additional revenues from the new taxes. Projections were placed at P4.132 billion for that period.

However, only P2.752 billion of the additional revenues is recognizable since several other BIR proposals have yet to be approved. The BOC expects to rake in P81.981 billion in duties this year, with P1.113 billion coming from the new revenue measures.

Customs collection target was still short by 2.8% to P40.966 billion from its target of P39.825 billion. Its revenue enhancement measures have, likewise, failed to bring in the targeted amount.

Ramos Approves Livelihood Rebel Returnees Fund

HK1608042893 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos has approved the release of more than 68 million Philippine pesos for the livelihood programs for former rebels under the National Reconciliation and Development Council. The president said that more rebels will want to come back to the fold of the law once the fund is made available. More than 7000 rebel returnees from provinces affected by insurrection are expected to benefit from the program. The livelihood projects will be implemented in cooperation with the Land Bank, the Development Bank of the Philippines, and the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center.

Cease-Fire Said To Follow Declaration

HK1608134193 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Lisandro Abadia yesterday said a cease-fire could be declared soon. He said that as soon as amnesty is proclaimed, a cease-fire can immediately be declared. But he said this is a political decision and he advised the public to await the announcement of President Fidel V. Ramos.

General Abadia was here in Bacolod yesterday to inspect the operations of the Negros Island Command. The Armed Forces chief said that since they have not received new orders, their campaign against insurrection

would continue. But he said the Armed Forces are ready to receive and protect rebels who surrender.

He said the cease-fire will not affect the scheduled turnover of the counter-insurgency campaign to the Philippine National Police.

Ramos Appoints Three New Advisers to Peace Process

HK1408060193 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] President Fidel Ramos has appointed Congressmen Bonifacio Gillego and Roylo Golez, and Local Government Secretary Rafael Alunan as advisers to the government's negotiating panel to the upcoming peace talks with rebel soldiers. The newly appointed advisers will complete the composition of the government panel, which will hold talks with both rightist and leftist rebels.

Meanwhile, leaders of both Congress and the National Amnesty Commission are now meeting in Malacanang and they have yet to decide whether to grant the

Sending Peace Talks Invitation

HK1408060893 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] President Ramos confirmed today that the Philippine peace panel has sent an official invitation to Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] Chairman Nur Misuari for the continuation of peace talks between the government and Muslim secessionists. Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, as acting adviser to the government peace panel, signed the letter on the orders of the president.

According to the president, the government now merely awaits Misuari's formal response to the letter, which contained a request for Misuari to agree to holding the opening ceremony for the talks to be held in Manila and an invitation for him to send a representative should he be unable to attend the ceremony personally. Ramos also said the government continues to hold informal discussions on the talks with other MNLF leaders in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, the president believes that the number of isolated bombing incidents in the south has decreased recently. He added that the continued military and police operations in Mindanao are merely part of the government's efforts to protect the civilian populace, secure vital government installations, and ensure the stability of the private sector. rebel soldiers conditional or unconditional amnesty.

MNLF Chairman Heads Panel for Talks

HK1708035093 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 17 Aug 93 p 6

[Report by Rolly San Juan]

[Text] Zamboanga City—The Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] yesterday announced the formation of an 11-man panel, headed by MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari, for the scheduled peace talks with the Philippine government.

MNLF spokesman Ustadz Zain Jali said the panel is composed of Tausugs, Maguindanaons and Maranaos—the three major Muslim ethnic groups in the country.

Aside from Misuari, Jali said the panel includes himself as religious adviser and chief civilian coordinator.

The other members of the panel are: MNLF intelligence chief Thambayepha Manjoorsa; MNLF vice chairman Hatimil Hassan of Basilan, who was also named vice chairman of the MNLF panel; MNLF chief of foreign affairs Ustadz Abdulbaki Abubakar of Jolo; MNLF information officer Ibrahim Omar of Jolo; MNLF central committee secretary-general Muslimin Sema of Cotabato; Dumas Sani of Lanao; lawyer Didagen Dilangalen of Maguindanao as legal counsel; Majindra Majilun of Jolo, head of the three-man panel secretariat; and MNLF military intelligence chief Abdul Saharin.

Jali said the MNLF is also considering Rev. Absalon Cerveza of South Cotabato as panel member.

Jali said eight of the 11-men panel are members of the MNLF central committee. The non-members of the MNLF central committee are Jali, a Tausug; Dilangalen, a Maguindanaon; and Sani, a Maranao.

Rep Eduardo Ermita, President Ramos' emissary, had told Misuari of the government's position to hold the opening talks in the Philippines.

Jali quoted Misuari as saying he would consult the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) on the matter.

✓ **Former Communist Leaders Denied Passports**

HK1608044593 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs has rejected the passport applications of three former communist leaders in the country. Satur Ocampo, former National Democratic Front spokesman, and his wife, Carolina Malay, as well as Ricardo Reyes, Communist Party of the Philippines national secretary-general, have not been allowed to secure passports for fear that the three former rebel leaders remain a threat to national security. Foreign Affairs officials have said that Malay and Ocampo applied for travel documents in order to attend hearings of their pending cases in the Makati Court.

Thailand

Editorial on Economic Potential, Lifting Ban

BK1608015993 Bangkok THE NATION in English
16 Aug 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Time To Lift the U.S. Embargo on Vietnam"]

[Text] The United States should lift its economic embargo against Vietnam before the Sept 14 deadline for President Bill Clinton to announce his decision. This would not only boost Vietnam's economic reform by allowing US businesses to gain a foothold there, it would also help the process of accounting for US servicemen still missing from the war.

US Representative Sam Gibbons, chairman of the trade subcommittee of the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee, expressed support at the end of his four-day visit to Vietnam last week for an early normalization of relations between the two nations.

Gibbons must be fully aware of Vietnam's economic potential after his visit. At the same time, working in a powerful committee he must be under a lot of pressure from US companies to urge the Clinton administration to drop the embargo, which has been in place since the end of Vietnam War 18 years ago.

His recommendation to Clinton will definitely carry some weight.

A large number of Western countries have already begun investing in Vietnam, with Europe leading the way. In the Asian region, Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea and the Asean countries have entered into joint ventures with Vietnam since Hanoi adopted economic reforms and liberalized its trade and investment policies in 1988. Japan, despite the US embargo, has resumed its foreign assistance with an aid package of more than US\$300 million.

Under the Bush Administration, Washington's stance softened and US companies were allowed to discuss trade and sign deals, but not to make actual investments. The positive trend has continued under Clinton, who on July 2 dropped US objections to France and Japan helping Vietnam pay its US\$140 million in arrears to the International Monetary Fund.

US businessmen want their government to allow normal trade and investment there as soon as possible to maintain their competitiveness with other investors and traders.

Since taking office Clinton, while following the trend, has been cautious in his approach to this controversial issue. He has insisted that the lifting of the embargo is dependent on progress in the accounting for MIAs. Before that, Washington said the decision rested on Vietnam's co-operation with the Cambodian peace settlement.

American companies, especially in construction and oil industries, hope to cash in on the opportunities provided by two decades of neglect. Multi-billion dollar infrastructure projects to improve roads, bridges, power and phone lines, hospitals and airports are in the pipeline.

Beyond trade, lifting of the embargo would help with MIA issue as it would encourage authorities in Vietnam not to hold back information. It has always been Vietnam's position that US-Vietnam normalization should not be linked with the MIA issue and that Hanoi's cooperation in this matter was on a humanitarian basis.

Vietnam's leaders say they have done their best to help resolve the MIA question. But Washington wants still more from Hanoi, to counter pockets of resistance from veterans and lobbyists.

Like most developing countries, Vietnam needs US aid and support in dealings with international lending institutions. Vietnam has suffered five decades of war and resulting poverty. Now, the nation's leaders have a new vision to rebuild their war-shattered country. They are serious in their intentions, and we in the free world should render assistance.

Lifting of the US embargo would make Vietnam's inevitable integration with the region and the world easier. As an observer to Asean, Vietnam has already demonstrated its serious desire to forge closer links with these six nations. Hanoi has also expressed the desire to join the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum. Washington should help, not obstruct, this endeavour.

Suphachai Comments on U.S. Trade Issues

BK1608150593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak granted an interview to reporters at Government House today regarding reduction of the tariff on equipment used in movie production. He said the Finance Ministry had been advised to study the matter. He believed that there should be no problem, because equipment used in movie production is machinery and does not constitute competition to domestic industry.

Asked about the tariff reduction on foreign films, he said the United States would be informed within the month as to what extent Thailand would agree on the reduction in principle. He said he had asked the Finance Ministry's committee in charge of customs and tariffs to study the issue this week, and the result would be submitted to the cabinet next week.

The deputy prime minister said that tariff reduction on foreign films would not be in exchange for the help Thailand had requested from the United States—concerning textiles, synthetic fiber, and canned tuna fish. He said the United States asked to study the issue of canned tuna fish, as it is making an overall review for tariff reductions on fish products. There have been

requests from several other countries, including New Zealand, which are similar to the request made by Thailand. The United States would need some time to study the matter. The deputy prime minister hoped that Thailand's canned tuna fish would have better opportunities in the United States in the future.

Officials To Discuss Film Tariffs

BK1708043793 Bangkok THE NATION in English 17 Aug 93 p B1, B2

[Text] The Finance Ministry's customs tariff committee will meet today to decide by how much to cut tariffs on imported cinematography films, a move which must be made before Aug 31 to avert possible US trade retaliation.

Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanahemin said yesterday that his ministry has agreed in principle to lower the tariffs currently imposed on overseas films.

"I have assigned Finance Ministry officials to get more data on current tariff rates and how we should make the cut," he said. Washington has requested that Thailand removes its tariff on movies, one of its conditions for removing Thailand from the US Priority Foreign Country (PFC) watchlist—the US Office of Trade Representative's most serious classification.

Currently, Thailand charges Bt[baht]30 per metre for imported films, but America wants the fee to be axed completely. Thailand imports Bt8-9 million of US movies annually.

In addition, the Finance Ministry committee will consider cutting tariffs currently imposed on cinematographic equipment, to try to help the domestic film industry.

"It is not that we are yielding to US demands. We also think we can help the Thai movie industry as well," said Tharin.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak said that although Thailand will lower the movie tariff, it would certainly not be axing it.

According to Suphachai, the government also considered reducing other customs tariffs to enable the Thai movie industry to compete with imported films.

He added that Thailand would benefit from the film tariff cuts as the United States will grant tariff reductions on Thai textiles and canned tuna imports in return.

"We expect that the reduction procedures will be completed by the end of the month.

"The customs tariff committee will probably finish its report this week and be ready to hand it over to Cabinet by next week," Suphachai said.

Aran Thammano, permanent secretary to Finance Ministry and the committee chairman, said that the film tariff cut was included on today's meeting agenda.

"Besides, the Finance Minister has also asked us to consider tariff cuts on related film equipment," he added.

Currently, the Thai government charges 15 per cent tariffs for movie cameras, 40 per cent for developing processors and 15 per cent for editing machines.

He added that the United States had been asking for film tariffs to be reduced since last year. The Fiscal

Policy Office and the Customs Department have since worked together on the issue.

A Finance Ministry source, however, said that the ministry had no wish to cut film tariffs whatsoever.

The source said that the current tariff rates Thailand charges on films are no burden to importers at all.

A film importer is allowed to copy the film as many times as he wants without paying an extra tariff, the source said, "what they are being asked to pay is only a few more baht for checking fees."

According to the source, Thailand charges tariffs at a rate of Bt30 per metre, not at a movie's gross value.

He warned that if Thailand actually reduced the film tariffs for the US, more demands for tariff cuts would be forthcoming. "But as the government has already talked with the US, we have to play the game," the source said.

Thailand charges Bt30 per metre for imported films, Bt1.50 per metre for Thai films shot domestically but developed abroad, and Bt15 per metre for Thai films shot and developed overseas:

According to the source, discussions to reduce tariffs on films would, therefore, not be limited to imported films.

"The cuts will be across the board and will include Thai films shot here, but developed abroad and those shot and developed abroad," he pointed out.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Future NAM Role
BK1408015393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
14 Aug 93 p 7

[Text] Pattaya—Thailand can use the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to protect its interests and to enable it to play a more significant role in international politics, according to Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan yesterday.

"Thailand has to be more involved in the world because our economy has moved from being domestic-oriented to international-oriented," said Mr Surin before delivering an opening address at a two-day seminar here on "The Role of Thailand in the Non-Aligned Movement".

Membership of the movement will help protect the country's benefits, he said.

Thailand applied for membership in NAM last May after being granted observer status in August 1992.

NAM will consider Thailand's application this year and Bangkok expects no problems.

Mr Surin said Thailand had to play a more significant role in world affairs beyond being the venue of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations.

He said NAM will help Thailand expand ties with other states.

"Many countries have expressed interest in contacting Thailand but there are no channels for them to do so," said Mr Surin.

Economic ties would follow political ones if Thailand becomes a NAM member, he said.

Mr Surin, in his address, called for a change in the "narrow" attitude of Thai foreign policy which is based on national interests.

He said Thailand's foreign policy should be more open-minded and more engaged in global affairs, rather than stuck with the question "What's in it for us?".

The change will enhance Thailand's role and the country would obtain support from other countries when in need, he said.

Yesterday's session focused on the direction and role of the 100-member movement since its inception in 1966 and its future.

Suwit Simakun, the Director-General of the Foreign Ministry's East Asian, Middle East and African Department told the panel that being part of NAM would facilitate Thailand's search for major new trade markets in member countries such as India, among other benefits.

Thai Ambassador to Geneva Det Bunnak said NAM represented "moral forces" which would unite developing countries in their bargaining with developed countries during negotiations, such as the upcoming Uruguay Round meeting.

"We need to join NAM to unite forces with the developing countries," he said.

Thammasat University lecturer Somphop Manarangsarn said NAM would help Thailand find new markets and strengthen its position in negotiations with more powerful countries as the Thai economy is expected to face some trouble ahead.

He described the economic situation as a "sandwich trapped economy" because Thailand's "low-market share" was being lost to countries like those in Indochina

and China with lower wages, while its "up-market share" had to compete against powerful countries.

Chulalongkon University lecturer Ms U-thumpon Watcharasathin said she was worried about the effectiveness of NAM due to its lack of mechanisms and success.

Deputy PM To Pursue AFTA Product Standards

*BK1608021593 Bangkok THE NATION in English
16 Aug 93 p B1*

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak said he will ask his Asean counterparts to sort out a common practice for establishing product standards to avoid unfair trade barriers under the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) agreement.

Suphachai said he will bring forward product standards which he considers one of the non-tariff barriers—three or four years ahead of the original plan. The Asean officials are currently concentrating on tariff cuts on manufactured goods.

Under the Afta schedule, Asean officials, from the beginning of this year, have started cutting tariffs on manufactured goods to a maximum of five per cent in the next 15 years

Referring to Thailand's tariff cut schedule, Suphachai said that Thailand has already adjusted the tariff on the industrial goods with more than 30 per cent tariff to 30. The government will start cutting tariffs on the items with less than 30 per cent tariff in the next two years.

Malaysia earlier threatened to back off its plan for tariff cuts as it has been disappointed with the Afta progress among the other Asean counterparts.

Thailand, for instance, is likely to delay the tariff cut schedule from the original plan of 1996 to 1998. Suphachai said although Malaysia has demonstrated the best progress on tariff cut, the Malaysian government has not reduced the tax protection on its petrochemical industry.

The Cabinet, however, has not yet approved the plan to delay the tariff cut on petrochemicals. Suphachai said that the delay should not affect the other related industries such as electronics or plastic.

The petrochemical operators have asked the government to put petrochemicals among the list of products subject to temporarily delay for tariff cuts. The International Economic Relation Policy Committee viewed that the tariff cuts on petrochemicals should be done within five years, while the Finance Ministry insisted that the tariffs on petrochemicals should be cut within three years from now.

Asean Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Asean-CCI)—the biggest group of the Asean private sector and the Thai private sector have sought the budget worth

Bt50 million from the Thai government to finance the establishment of the Asean-CCI secretariat office in Thailand.

Suphachai said that the government has not yet agreed to the demand but he thought that the private sector should be in a better position to finance the Asean-CCI secretariat office.

Cambodian Leaders Visit Seafood Processing Complex

*BK1508093393 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 15 Aug 93
p 2*

[Text] Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, copremiers of the Cambodian Provisional Government, on 14 August, visited the Charoen Phokkhaphan Feedmill Company's shrimp processing plant, and the cold storage for shrimp exports of the Seafood Enterprise Company in Samut Sakhon Province. The complex is one of the most modern in the world. The Cambodian leaders and their delegation were welcomed by the Charoen Phokkhaphan Group's Chairman Thanin Chiarawanon and senior executives, and the governor of Samut Sakhon, Chaloe Phromloet.

After touring the complex, the two Cambodian leaders expressed interest in the shrimp processing and frozen seafood industry. Cambodia expressed interests in a joint venture with Thailand because Thailand has high technology which is known worldwide, while Cambodia is rich in marine resources and geographically suitable for the industry.

Cambodian Deputy Defense Minister General Tia Banh meanwhile granted an interview at the Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel before leaving for Phuket to join the group of Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen on their official visit to Thailand. Gen. Tia Banh said Cambodia needs assistance from the Thai Government for road construction in Cambodia. Asked about the opening of the Thai-Cambodian border passes, he said Cambodia must check for the readiness first and study about the benefits from border opening. Measures must also be taken to prevent problems. He said the current discussion with the Thai government was very useful in creating mutual understanding for both countries in future.

Army To Train Cambodians; Joint Lao Bridge To Open

*BK1508013893 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in
English 15 Aug 93 p 4*

[Text] The Thai Army has agreed to give military assistance, including training, to the unified Cambodian armed forces, Deputy Defence Minister Maj Gen [Major General] Sombat Rotphothong said yesterday.

Commenting on the official visit by the co-presidents of the Provisional National Government of Cambodia, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Mr Hun Sen, Maj Gen

Sombat said one of the forms of assistance will be the supply of uniforms for Cambodia's army.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivut had asked the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at its 26th annual meeting in Singapore last month to provide the uniforms as a symbol of the unity and loyalty of the Cambodian armed forces.

Cambodia's four warring factions signed the Paris Peace Accord in 1991, ending 12 years of civil war.

Maj-Gen Sombat told reporters that if Thailand wants peace and stability in Cambodia, it must give it military assistance.

Cambodia's co-presidents requested Thailand's assistance in agriculture, education, public health and infrastructure development during their meeting with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai on Friday.

Maj-Gen Sombat said the visit by Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen, which began on Thursday and ends today, would strengthen cooperation and understanding between the two countries.

He said the Cambodian leaders had reaffirmed that contracts concluded between Thai businessmen and any of the four factions including the Khmer Rouge, will be honoured and transferred to the next government.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said earlier the stability of contracts with the four Cambodian factions was discussed at yesterday's meeting to boost Thai business confidence in Cambodian investment.

He said Cambodia needs and welcomes foreign investors.

His Majesty the King granted an audience to the Cambodian co-presidents yesterday afternoon.

Prince Ranariddh and Mr Hun Sen flew to the resort island of Phuket after the audience. They will return to Cambodia today.

Meanwhile, the long-awaited Mekong bridge linking Thailand and Laos will be temporarily opened for a trial period in February, Laotian Ambassador Bounkeut Sangsomsak said yesterday.

The one-month opening would enable problems to be studied before the bridge was officially opened, he said.

The official opening ceremony to be attended by Thai and Laotian state leaders and dignitaries will be in early April.

Mr Bounkeut expressed concern about a possible increase in road accidents in Laos because of an influx of vehicles crossing the river to Vientiane from Nong Khai province.

Accidents might result because in Thailand vehicles drive on the left and in Laos on the right, he said.

About 600 vehicles are expected to cross the bridge at weekends.

Construction of the 1,174 metre-long Friendship Bridge began in November 1991 with financial support from Australia.

The ambassador ruled out problems concerning ownership of the bridge, saying that both countries would follow rules set for international bridges.

Charan Warns of 'Sinister' Khmer Rouge Strategy

*BK1608012193 Bangkok THE NATION in English
16 Aug 93 p A4*

[Text] The Khmer Rouge could be trying to draw Thailand into their conflict with Phnom Penh by deliberately staging military activity near the Thai border, according to the Secretary-General of the National Security Council, Gen Charan Kunlawanit.

"There must be something sinister about them," Charan said, referring to a series of Khmer Rouge military operations on the Thai-Cambodian border in the past few weeks.

Among them were the Khmer Rouge's recent capture of the historic Preah Vihear temple opposite Si Sa Ket province and their attack on UN peacekeepers at a checkpoint near the Thai border. The Khmer Rouge are also reported to be trying to overrun a strategic border area at Choam Khsan district opposite Ubon Ratchathani province.

Thai authorities denied the allegation by the Phnom Penh government that Thai troops helped the Khmer Rouge seize Preah Vihear temple. Charan last week demanded an apology from the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia for accusing Thai soldiers of allowing the Khmer Rouge to attack the UN peacekeepers.

"Why don't the Khmer Rouge limit their military operations to areas inside Cambodia? Why do they have to carry them out on the border? My suspicion is that the Khmer Rouge want to draw Thailand into the conflict," the national security chief said in an interview with THE NATION over the weekend.

Charan said the Khmer Rouge are stepping up armed activity to demonstrate their military strength. "The Khmer Rouge's message is 'we are still here'," he said.

Charan predicted the trend of military action would continue for some time.

The security chief said he would raise the issue with the Khmer Rouge if he gets the chance to meet their leader, Khieu Samphan.

Charan denied charges by Western countries that Thailand accords special treatment to the Khmer Rouge. "We treat the Khmer Rouge just like we do any other group of Cambodians," he said.

Charan said Thailand felt hurt that the UN forces in Cambodia had not sought an explanation from Thai authorities before making accusations that Thai soldiers aided the Khmer Rouge in their military operations.

"We have been extending every possible means of cooperation to the UN as far as Cambodia is concerned. But this is how our friendship is reciprocated," Charan said.

On Thailand's security policy in the post-Cold War period, Charan said the National Security Council has already completed drafting its new security master plan and submitted it to Prime Minister Chuan Likphai for consideration.

The security blueprint, he said, will serve as the basic guideline for Thailand's policy toward its neighbours in dealing with economic and security challenges in the post-Cold War period for the next five years.

"The blueprint will serve as the basis for Thailand's cooperation with other countries in the region," he said.

Since Thailand foresees no tangible security threat in the region for at least the next five years, the blueprint was directed toward greater economic and technical cooperation. "That means if the blueprint is adopted by the government, all the government agencies will have to reorient their approaches to fit it," he said.

The northern growth quadrangle involving Thailand, China, Laos and Burma and the southern growth triangle grouping Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia are among economic cooperation concepts outlined in the blueprint.

Vietnam, considered a threat to Thailand's security until recently, stands to benefit from greater economic and technical cooperation with Thailand under the master plan. "Such cooperation will eventually lead to more investment and trade," Charan said.

Charan said that, while he sees a diminishing security profile for the United States in this region as Washington adjusts its post-Cold War strategy, bilateral relations between Thailand and the US are unlikely to be affected.

Charan was in Washington last month for an informal consultative forum on regional security between the two countries. The Thai delegation was headed by Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Pracha Khunakasem, while the US side was led by Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord.

"It was the first security forum of its kind between Thailand and the US since the end of the Cold War," Charan said. He said Thailand used the forum to reflect on how countries in this region view the security situation and the role of the US.

Despite the changing security environment, Charan said Thailand and the US continue to honour their agreement on the military reserve stockpile which was initiated at the height of the conflict in Cambodia.

On Burma, Gen Charan said Thailand will continue to pursue its policy of constructive engagement aimed at helping its western neighbour achieve a national reconciliation.

The security chief said national reconciliation is the key to solving Burma's internal problems, especially those having to do with the various ethnic groups.

"Thailand does not subscribe to sanctions because such harsh measures have never worked," Charan said of pressure from Western countries for Thailand and its Asean neighbours to adopt economic sanctions to force democratic change in Burma.

Charan said with its economy slightly improved by more foreign investment and trade, Burma has set national reconciliation as its top priority. "For the Burmese, democracy is secondary to national reconciliation," he said.

Charan said the separate visits to Burma last week by Defence Minister Gen Wichit Sukmak and Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit highlight the importance Thailand attaches to formal high-level contacts between the two countries. Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri is also scheduled to visit Burma next month.

"There will definitely be more exchanges of high-level visits in the future," he said.

Defense Minister Comments on Burmese Talks

*BK1708044993 Bangkok THE NATION in English
17 Aug 93 p A3*

[Text] Defence Minister Gen [General] Wichit Sukmak said yesterday he had reiterated Thailand's policy of constructive management and non-interference towards Burma during his visit to Rangoon over the weekend.

"I made it clear to Burmese leaders that Thailand does not want to interfere in Burma's internal affairs," said Gen Wichit, the second high-ranking Thai general to visit Burma in a week.

Gen Wichit's trip to Rangoon followed that of Army Commander in Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit.

The defence minister, who also met Prime Minister Than Shwe, said he told Burmese leaders that Thai authorities do not support any of the various minority groups fighting for independence from Rangoon from the Thai-Burmese border.

"We have a clear policy in cutting off (illegal) arms supplies to these minority groups," he said.

Gen Wichit said Prime Minister Chuan Likphai had instructed him to inform Burmese leaders that Thailand will continue to pursue its constructive management policy towards Burma despite pressure from western countries.

Chuan Urged To Prevent 'Inherent Incompetence'

*BK1708045593 Bangkok THE NATION in English
17 Aug 93 p A6*

[Editorial: "Government Is Required, But Not More Party Games"]

[Text] The Democrat Party has been floating a trial balloon by placing much emphasis on luring the Seritham Party to join the coalition so that its supporting votes will rise from 205 to 213. But this on-and-off gesture for the eight-vote Seritham Party was not solely designed to strengthen the overall stability of the government. The real objective seems to be that the Democrats want to undercut the position of its partner, the New Aspiration Party [NAP].

Seritham has become a bargaining chip for the Democrats' grand plan to prevent the NAP from taking the soon-to-be Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare under its wings. This was the implicit goal of the coalition leader whose political manoeuvring leaves him with more foes than friends.

Seritham leader Dr Athit Urairat has been put in an awkward position. The party has become estranged in both the opposition faction and a silent partner in the coalition. A chip, however, will remain a chip and in this instance the Democrat Party prefers to treat it that way.

For almost a year, the coalition has been performing in a listless directionless manner. Each partner has its own agenda in initiating projects, leading to rivalry, instead of policy being complementary with a fair degree of harmony. This has occurred after all the coalition members stood perfunctorily in support of a policy statement which, sad to say, has yet to become reality.

Part of this problem is that the coalition has not had enough time to go through the unified agenda as it has had to grapple instead with crisis management. Even in that, its achievement has not been convincing enough.

Whether it was good or bad luck, the coalition has faced either man-made or accidental diversions one after the other to distract public attention from the problems at hand. But most of those diversions unfortunately, happened to be tragic events claiming heavy losses in life and property.

Sympathy for the government, overwhelmed from time to time by human tragedies, can run dry if it does not demonstrate its vision to the people who need a confidence-building performance on the part of national leaders. That demanded vision remains somewhat blurred by frequent partisan bickerings and jealousy.

There have been calls for the government urgently to get its act together as more people, especially in the private business sector, become very impatient with the evident

lack of hands-on management on the part of the government leader. Present negotiations to include Seritham Party in the coalition are definitely not high on the coalition's list of priorities.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, as Democrat leader, should be aware that there is no more time for him and his party to engage in political hallucination or delusion. There are so many pressing issues which demand prompt action before the public begins to feel that the coalition is so plagued with inherent incompetence that it cannot manage the nation with any degree of efficiency.

Bringing Seritham into the coalition will not essentially improve the government's performance; rather it would be a new political diversion to prolong the coalition's survival.

Chuan should also know that no matter how many MPs [members of parliament] the coalition manage to command as supporters to keep the opposition faction at bay, those votes will be useless once the people no longer have any tolerance for the government. That day may not be long now and no diversion will work wonders as in the past.

Rice Policy Committee To Solve Paddy Problems

BK1508073493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has appointed a rice policy committee chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan to solve rice problems, especially prices and marketing within and outside the country. Deputy Government Spokesman Montri Danphaibun said the newly-appointed committee will be directly responsible for rice policy in both the short and long run, such as on production, prices, intervention, and export. The rice policy committee will also be responsible for considering aid provisions to farmers, rice mill entrepreneurs, and rice exporters. Results of the operation of the rice policy committee will be reported to the Cabinet at least twice a month.

Daily Criticizes Rehire Law as Solution to Layoffs

BK1408094793 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 14 Aug 93 p 3

[Editorial: "Solving The Problem By Law"]

[Text] Interior Minister General Chawalit Yongchaiyut has ordered the Thai Phattraphon Company Limited to rehire its 900 workers at the same salary after the company management closed the factory. This follows in the wake of a failure by officials to reach an agreement in a 10-month long labor dispute between the employer and employees.

This is the first time the interior minister has used Article 35 of the Labor Act of 1975 to end a labor dispute by ordering the employer to rehire its workers. The application of this law is a short-term solution to the

layoff problem, with the concern that this issue may not really be solved and that other problems may follow.

Several of the country's industries including the textile industry, started off by using low-salaried unskilled workers so that their products can compete in the world market. When competition increases, it is necessary for factories to find ways to reduce their production costs and improve efficiency, such as using by new technology and retrenching unskilled workers.

Several industrialized countries have had this experience. When factories are forced to reduce costs and become more efficient to compete with those from other countries, they use new technology and lay off some workers and thus cause unemployment.

Some countries are able to solve unemployment by training the workers to use new technology or providing vocational courses so that they can find other jobs. Unlike the law, this is the correct solution and will not cause subsequent problems.

Without any readiness to help the workers adjust themselves to technological changes, the law will also solve the layoff problem in the short term. It is also not a genuine solution as many other problems which may be too hard to tackle may follow.

Solving the problem this way can only cause negative results. It also takes away the opportunity industries have to improve their efficiency and reduce production costs to compete in world markets. As a result, this may have long-term impact on employers, employees, and the country as a whole.

Chiang Mai Police Arrest Suspect With Heroin

BK1608075393 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Acting on a tip that there would be a delivery of heroin at the King Rama 9 Suan Lanna Park on Chotana Road, Tambon Chang Phuak, Chiang Mai, police waited in the area for suspects. The delivery took place early this morning. Authorities surprised the four traffickers, but managed to arrest only one of them, Mr. Amon Phanasantikun, with six bags of heroin weighing two kg. The other traffickers fled the scene. Authorities detained the suspect for interrogation in order to pursue the others who fled.

Khun Sa Denies Involvement

BK1608095993 Bangkok NAEON in Thai 16 Aug 93 p 12

[Text] On 15 August the famous drug kingpin Khun Sa denied having any involvement in the recent heroin bust worth some U.S. \$33 million in Chiang Rai Province. The seizure was carried out by officials of the Office of Narcotics Control Board, with Police General Chaowalit Yotmani as secretary general.

Khun Sa said the arrest was a show staged by the United States to make him the scapegoat in the losing effort of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. He said his group was not responsible for poppy growing or heroin trafficking, and knew nothing about the trafficking of narcotics. He said he only taxed the illicit drug when it was transported through his state.

Vietnam

Ministry Denies Bribing U.S. Commerce Secretary

BK1708122493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0736 GMT 17 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi, Aug 17 (AFP)—The Vietnamese Government Tuesday angrily dismissed as "totally unfounded" allegations that U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown had accepted money from Hanoi to help engineer the lifting of the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam.

According to the August 23 issue of U.S. News and World Report, Brown is being probed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) after being accused by Ly Thanh Binh, a Vietnamese national living in Florida, of accepting 700,000 dollars in order to persuade President Bill Clinton to scrap the 18-year-old embargo.

Clinton is to hand down a decision on the future of the embargo on September 14.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Hanoi said the story "is totally unfounded."

"Those spreading this malicious and false report are hoping to obstruct the process of improving relations between the United States and Vietnam," the spokesman said.

Brown categorically denies the accusation, which he describes as "absolutely ridiculous."

The United States says a total lifting of the embargo depends on Vietnam's efforts to resolve the mystery surrounding the 2,248 U.S. soldiers classified as missing in action (MIA) from the conflict.

Delegation of U.S. Congressmen Visits HCMC

BK1508152793 Hanoi VNA in English 1437 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 15—A delegation of the Trade Sub-Committee under the Budget Committee of the US House of Representatives led by Chairman of the Sub-Committee Samuel Gibbons visited Ho Chi Minh City [HCMC] from August 14 to 15.

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi received it in Ho Chi Minh City on August 14.

Later the same day, Vice Chairman of the Ho Chi Minh City's People Committee Nguyen Van Huan cordially received the visiting delegation in the city's People Committee.

Mr. Gibbons, for his part, expressed his pleasure at the visit to Vietnam and at the visible changes and achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people, notably by the people in Ho Chi Minh City. He wished he would contribute his part to those progresses.

On behalf of the people in the city, Mr. Nguyen Van Huan warmly welcomed the delegation's visit, which, he said, will strengthen the mutual understanding between the two countries and will promote that ties further develop in the interests of both sides.

The delegation toured the branch of the Vietnam Chamber of Industry and Commerce and was received by Mrs. Pham Chi Lan, general secretary of the Vietnam Chamber of Industry and Commerce and chairwoman of the Vietnam-US Trade Committee.

The delegation left Ho Chi Minh City today, concluding its visit to Vietnam.

Commentary Views Visit

*BK1608135893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 16 Aug 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] A United States House of Representatives Subcommittee for Trade, led by Mr. Sam Gibbons has concluded its visit to Vietnam.

The delegation met with party leader Do Muoi, and had talks with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, Minister of Commerce Le Van Triet, and many other leaders. All talks concentrated on the economic situation and opportunities for investment in Vietnam. Mr. Gibbons remarked that all meetings took place in an open-door and effective atmosphere. He also voiced his support for both side's efforts for the normalization of relations between the two countries.

Reality has proven a necessity of normalizing of relations. It has been (?manifested) in other official visits to Vietnam by United States officials recently. The aims of the visit were, as supplied by Mr. Gibbons, to study the obstacles in the way of normalization of relations between the two countries, and together with Vietnam, to find out solutions to the difficulties.

Mr. Gibbons declared when he arrived that he wanted to develop trade ties between Vietnam and the United States. A member of the House of Representatives, Mr. James Pickle who accompanied Mr. Gibbons, also held that the purpose of his visit to Vietnam this time was to seek for peace in relations with Vietnam. He said that his delegation tried to understand the Vietnamese people and find out ways to cooperate. Another member of the

delegation, Mr. (?Wally Harger) noted that the Americans were happy to do business with Vietnam.

It is clear that after the visit, the delegation of the Trade Subcommittee of the United States House of Representatives further understood Vietnam. It saw the need and benefit of the normalization of relations, and as General Secretary Do Muoi noted, the visit marked new step in relations between Vietnam and the United States.

Party Officials Visit China 2-13 Aug

*BK1408070393 Hanoi VNA in English 0622 GMT
14 Aug 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 14—A delegation of the Commission for Ideology and Culture of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPV CC) led by Nguyen Duc Binh, Politburo member and secretary of the party Central Committee, visited China from August 2-13 as guest of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (CPC CC).

It was received in Beijing on August 6 by Hu Jintao, standing Politburo member and secretary of the CPC Central Committee. He conveyed greetings of Jiang Zemin, Li Peng and Qiao Shi to Vietnamese General Secretary Do Muoi, President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. He expressed his pleasure at the further consolidation and development of the friendship and cooperation between the two parties and states.

While there, the party delegation was feted by Ding Quangen, Politburo member and secretary of the CPC Central Committee. It had working sessions with the leaders of the International Liaison Department, the Propaganda Department of the party Central Committee, the State Commission for Restructuring Economy and the Central Party School. It toured Beijing, Daluy, Amoy and Guangzhou.

Leaders Send National Day Greetings to ROK

*BK1508120293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in
Vietnamese 1430 GMT 14 Aug 93*

[Text] On the 48th Liberation Day anniversary and the 45th Independence Day of the Republic of Korea, the President of the State Le Duc Anh on 15 August 1993 sent a congratulatory message to ROK President Kim Yong-sam. The message reads in part as follows:

I sincerely wish the relations between Vietnam and the ROK will continue to develop in the interest of the two peoples and for the sake of peace, stability, and development in the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world.

On the same day, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet sent a congratulatory message to ROK Prime Minister Hwang In-song. Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam also sent a congratulatory message to His Excellency ROK Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu.

Cambodian Government's Joint Communiqué Hailed

*BK1608140893 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 16 Aug 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Cambodian People's Party have issued a joint communiqué calling for national reconciliation. Following is our radio opinion on the event.

In their joint communiqué, the two parties highlighted the new targets for the Cambodian issue which include a complete peace for democracy, freedom, and prosperity. Nevertheless, the process of peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia is facing numerous difficulties caused by other factions, especially those trying to undermine the bipartite [as heard] coalition by conducting many activities to destabilize the situation for their own benefit.

The Khmer Rouge still refused to join the Paris Accord on Cambodia, continued its acts against the administration, economic sabotage, and destabilization of the situation in the country.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk has called on the Khmer Rouge to give up its hostile policy, enjoy the peaceful life, and restore reconciliation of the Cambodian people. The Cambodian Provisional National Government rejected the Khmer Rouge's ambition to set up a quart-partite [as heard] army while it still pursues the scheme to destroy the election results.

Facing this situation, the FUNCINPEC and the Cambodian People's Party worked out the six-point policy. The two parties hold that they will always support Prince Norodom Sihanouk and continue to cooperate in support of the program of action of the Cambodian Provisional National Government as well as its measures to defend social security and stability.

The two parties also called on the world community to continue their support and assistance for the Cambodian Provisional Government until a new constitution was made and an official government was set up.

History of Relations With Indonesia Reviewed

BK1608130993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Review by Station Editor Diep Anh of relations between Vietnam and Indonesia on the 19th anniversary of the establishment of Vietnam-Indonesia diplomatic relations]

[Summary] Since the two countries established diplomatic relations on 15 August 1964 [as heard], the ties between Vietnam and Indonesia have been continually

improved and developed. In recent years, the two governments and armies have exchanged many friendly visits. "The Vietnam visit of Indonesian President Suharto in 1990 and the Indonesia visit of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet in 1991 were two important political events marking the full development of relations between the two countries and opening for further cooperation."

As both countries have strong agricultural backgrounds, cooperation in this field has been a major concern for both countries. In 1992, "the farmers associations of Vietnam and Indonesia formally established friendship relations and cooperation on many aspects of agriculture." Since then, "many visits to exchange experiences between agriculture specialists of the two countries and training courses were arranged." The memorandum signed by the Indonesian agriculture minister in his recent visit to Vietnam outlined areas of agricultural trading and cooperation that both Vietnam and Indonesia wished to enhance.

Trading and investment relations between the two countries were also boosted. Trading value in 1992 reached \$200 million. "The cooperation in form of joint venture with Vietnam by Indonesian private business groups was developed significantly in the last few years, focusing mainly in oil and gas prospecting and exploitation, and hotel industry." Another important tool that helps facilitate business cooperation between Indonesia and Vietnam is the joint venture IndoVina Bank, which was set up in 1990.

Cooperation was also developed in other areas such as forestry, postal service, science and technology, education, culture, and sports. More importantly, Indonesia has pledged to help Vietnam in public health field, especially in population control and family planning.

"To create more favorable conditions for the development of relations between Vietnam and Indonesia, an Indonesian general consulate will be opened soon in Ho Chi Minh City."

Do Muoi, Others Attend HCMC Award Ceremony

BK1508125193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] On the morning of 14 August, the party Central Committee Secretariat held a ceremony in Ho Chi Minh City [HCMC] to confer the Ho Chi Minh Order on Comrade Tran Quoc Huong, former secretary of the party Central Committee and director of the party Central Committee's Internal Affairs Department.

Attending the ceremony were Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Dao Duy Tung, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the Political Bureau and secretary

of the Chi Minh City party committee; and representatives of special departments and offices of the party Central Committee.

On behalf of the party Central Committee Secretariat, Comrade Dao Duy Tung conferred the Ho Chi Minh Order on Comrade Tran Quoc Huong.

Vo Van Kiet Attends Economic Region Conference

BK1408062493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] The government adopted the general plan for developing the key economic region of southern Vietnam at its conference on 12 August in Ho Chi Minh City. The government has established various key economic regions to satisfactorily implement the nation's socioeconomic development strategy until the year 2000.

The southern key economic region is composed of Ho Chi Minh City, Thu Dau Mot City, Thuan An District of Song Be, Bien Hoa City, Long Thanh District of Dong Nai, Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province and adjacent localities directly related to the region, especially in the fields of building infrastructure, distribution of the population, urbanization, and zoning off of green belts. This region extends to Tan An City, Long An Province, and Phan Thiet City.

The region and its adjacent zone is composed of 636 wards, villages, and towns with an area of 12,413 square km and 7.85 million in population.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet spoke at the conference and urged localities, ministries, and sectors concerned to promptly formulate plans to develop the industrial infrastructure, services, and tourist domains of the region while designing a program of action to effectively implement these plans.

Attends Conference on Socioeconomics

BK1608070193 Hanoi VNA in English 0629 GMT 16 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA August 16 - On August 13-14 the government held in Quy Nhon, capital of Binh Dinh Province, a conference to discuss the plan for socioeconomic development in the years 1994-1995 in the central Vietnam coastal Provinces from Quang Binh to Khanh Hoa and the central highlands Provinces of Darlak, Gia Lai and Kon Tum.

It was co-chaired by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Vice Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong.

The areas have great forest resources and favourable conditions to expand perennial industrial crops like coffee, rubber, tea and pepper and livestock breeding. Other strengths of central Vietnam and the central highlands are aquatic products, tourism and industry. Oil and gas is also a promising asset.

The conference noted in the past three years, in spite of a marked improvement in local living standard, the rate of socio-economic development remains low compared to the average rate in the country.

The conference discussed a number of concrete targets in the years 1994-1995 with a view to achieving an annual GDP growth rate of from 4 to 6 percent.

Phan Van Khai Receives IMF Delegation

BK1308142593 Hanoi VNA in English 1415 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Aug. 13—Vice Prime Minister Phan Van Khai received in Ho Chi Minh City on August 11 Mr. Yusuke Horiguchi, senior advisor and head of a delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on a working visit to Vietnam.

Mr. Y. Horiguchi told Vice Prime Minister Phan Van Khai that his visit's purpose is to arrange one-year economic programme with a view to controlling and reducing inflation, stimulating economic growth and improving the payment balance. This programme will be the foundation for the establishment of a support country group to help Vietnam solve the overdue debt with the fund, thus accelerating to the normalization of the financial relations between Vietnam and the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the international financial community.

Speaking to his guest, Vice Prime Minister Phan Van Khai appreciated the efforts of the IMF, in general, and of IMF staff, in particular, to improve the relations with Vietnam, and help Vietnam in building and implementing economic, financial and monetary policies over the past years. He also expressed his hope that the relations between the fund and Vietnam will be soon resumed aimed at strongly supporting Vietnam in its process of economic renovation and integration into the international community.

Phan Van Khai Meets With Southern Businessmen

BK1508085793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] On 13 August in Ho Chi Minh City, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai met with owners of 130 business establishments that belong to different economic sectors in the southern provinces and cities to study local businessmen's aspirations and the advantages or disadvantages confronting local production and business establishments.

Speaking on this occasion, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai analyzed the positive changes in the national situation after three years of implementing the reform policy, as well as the government's guidelines for formulating the 1994-95 two-year state plan. The deputy prime minister reminded business establishment owners of the need to anticipate the new conditions and opportunities

in the country, adopt more positive measures to formulate plans and organize management, strive to score the best production and business results, and contribute to accelerating the growth rate of the national economy.

Phan Van Khai Meets Provincial Businessmen

BK1608080193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] On 13 August in Ho Chi Minh City, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai worked with 125 businessmen from state and nonstate business establishments in various cities and provinces.

The deputy prime minister was briefed by the businessmen on the real state of and problems in production and business activities such as capital; taxes; export and import mechanisms; certain policies encouraging domestic investment; financial, monetary, and banking systems; managerial mechanisms; and relations between central and local state agencies and business establishments.

Chatting cordially with the businessmen, Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai pointed out that positive changes in the country during the three years of implementing the seventh party congress resolution have helped stabilize the financial, monetary, and pricing situation; push back inflation; and promote economic growth at a considerable rate. He said:

Major tasks for the 1993-95 period that have been maintained under the direction of the government involve persistently advancing more vigorous steps on the path of renovation and, first of all, seeking all available means to fully develop the potential of the country and latent capabilities of the people. Meanwhile, efforts must be made to obtain as much outside assistance as possible to continue stabilizing the socioeconomic situation and quickening the pace of development. This is aimed at overfulfilling the 1991-95 five-year plan.

It is also necessary to speed up the application of various new mechanisms and policies to pave the way for extensive development in the ensuing five-year plan.

National Assembly Vice Chairman Visits Khanh Hoa

BK1608103193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] From 10-13 August, National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu and Ha Manh Tri, member of National Assembly Standing Committee and chairman of the National Assembly Law Committee, paid a working visit to the people's council of Khanh Hoa.

The two officials held a working session with the standing committees of the provincial people's council and people's committee. The chairman of the Khanh Hoa People's Council reported on the activities over the

past years, and the achievements and the shortcomings of the standing committee of the people's council in their leadership role.

Phung Van Tuu contributed many suggestions to the provincial people's council in relation to many aspects of their work. He especially stressed the importance of internal solidarity as necessary for successfully performing all tasks. He also reminded the comrades in the standing committee to remain close to the grassroots agencies, and to listen and respond accordingly to all just demands of the people.

During their stay in Khanh Hoa, the two officials also visited a number of economic and cultural establishments in the province, the war veterans association, the legal practitioners association, the troops of the Fourth Naval Region and of the Spratly Islands District, as well as residents of fishing villages in Vung Ro, Dai Lanh in Van Ninh District, and some revolution's veteran cadres living in the province.

Tran Duc Luong Attends Sericulture Meeting

BK1408100293 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 14 Aug 93

[Text] In 28-30 July in Bao Loc of Lam Dong Province, the Vietnam Silk and Mulberry Corporation held a meeting to review its work in the first six months of 1993, discuss measures to overcome difficulties, and outline development planning for the last six months and the subsequent years. Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong attended the meeting. While working with the corporation, the deputy prime minister directly criticized some management mistakes and shortcomings of the corporation, especially in its capital management. However, he confirmed that sericulture is an important industry of our national economy. The government has applied many measures to help the industry. He urged the corporation to overcome their shortcomings to surge forward.

Officials Comment on Drought Conditions

Pham The Duyet Launches Campaign

BK1408091593 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] The Hanoi People's Committee officially launched the "Save Tap Water Week" campaign from 13 to 18 August 1993 this morning, 13 August 1993, at the Thieu Nhi Cultural Palace. Attending the ceremony were Comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the party Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi Party Committee; Le At Hoi, chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee; His Excellency (Bauli Moscomen), charge d'affaires of the Finnish Embassy; His Excellency (Ari Makcomen), coordinator of the Finnish Tap Water Service Program; and representatives of international organs.

According to the Hanoi Tap Water Service Company report, nearly 50 percent of the city's water or 160 million liters are wasted every day due to leakage and abuse. At the same time, some sections of the city, including public housing areas, are suffering from tap water shortages. The launch of the save water campaign is to make the people of Hanoi City realize the value of clean water and how they can help to reduce daily wastage.

Vo Van Kiet Holds Conference

BK1408090593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 13 Aug 93

[Text] In Qui Nhon Province on 13 August, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held a conference with people's committee chairmen of provinces from Quang Binh to Phu Yen to discuss anti-drought plans and measures for 1994-95.

After hearing the reports of the chairmen of people's committee of some localities on their situation, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet urged provinces to pay special attention to the problem. He said these provinces must strive to integrate manpower, energy, and other facilities to build reservoirs and dig water ditches so as to save rice and other industrial crops. Efforts must be made to ensure sufficient water for people and livestock. There also must be efforts to mobilize people in villages to fight drought, and to plant more subsidiary food crops.

The Prime Minister urged localities to urgently reserve food and medicine to cope with hunger and epidemic and to strive to protect life and property.

While making these efforts, these provinces must immediately prepare seeds for the 1993-94 winter-spring rice crop, strive to increase the winter-spring rice output to compensate for losses in the summer-fall and 10th-month rice crops, and draw on experiences to cope with drought in the future.

The Prime Minister instructed the Ministries of Water Conservancy, Agriculture and Food Industry, Energy, Public Health, and Finance to help these provinces to quickly overcome the consequences of drought.

Outlines Policies for Relief

BK1608152393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 15 Aug 93

[Text] At present, provinces in the former Fourth Zone and the central coastal area are experiencing a prolonged drought which has seriously affected production and the daily life of the people.

On 13 August, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held a conference with the people's committee chairmen of Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Nam-Danang, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, and Khanh Hoa Provinces; representatives of ministries and sectors

concerned, the State Planning Commission; the Ministries of Agriculture and Food Industry, Finance, Labor and War Invalids and Social Welfare, and Public Health to discuss measures to overcome difficulties caused by the drought and to restore production.

The prime minister gave the following instructions:

1. The people's committees of provinces must treat this issue as a priority task, integrate their supervision, and mobilize the capabilities of their provinces to minimize losses caused by the drought. In areas with available water resources, efforts must be made to mobilize manpower to drain water to newly-planted rice fields and to areas with ripening rice. Areas planted with rice seedlings and facing serious drought should be converted to production of vegetables or subsidiary food crops. The Ministry of Energy must supply more electric power to areas with water pumps to ensure sufficient water for production and the daily use of the residents. Efforts must be made immediately to prepare land and seeds for the 1993-94 winter-spring crop.

2. It is necessary to allot sufficient land for the peasants and take urgent measures to protect livestock. Provinces must take measures to ensure sufficient water for the daily life of the people and for livestock breeding. They should improve the available fresh water resources and dig more water wells to supply clean water to the people. This is the duty of the people's committees of provinces and they must immediately supervise the implementation of this task. The Ministries of Water Conservancy, Finance, and Construction must study and offer proposals to the government to provide additional help to provinces facing acute difficulties,

3. It is possible that the prolonged drought may create food shortage for some elements of the peasantry late this year. As a result, the provincial people's committees must monitor the situation and provide close supervision in regulating the supply of grain and food sources in provinces, districts, and villages to prevent grain shortage and hunger. The Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare must firmly grasp the situation in each area and region and file progress reports to the government so that it may provide prompt help to the people, especially families facing difficulties and those who are entitled to social welfare assistance.

4. Due to the shortage of clean water and the prolonged pollution of the environment, it is likely that epidemics will occur in the near future, especially cholera, hemorrhagic fever, rinderpest, and so forth. As a result, the Ministry of Public Health must prepare sufficient medicine to prevent and promptly eradicate these epidemics, provide guidance to provinces to take measures to prevent diseases, ensure fresh and clean water for the people, and strive to improve the environment.

5. Immediately, provinces must make preparations in anticipation of the 1993-94 winter-spring crops with the goal of increasing production output to compensate for losses experienced in the 10th-month and summer-fall

rice crops. They should improve water conservation projects to provide more water resources, and supply more fertilizer, fuel, and other agricultural materials to the peasants. For families facing hunger, efforts must be made to promptly supply them with sufficient rice so that rice varieties reserved for the upcoming winter-spring crop might not be eaten as food. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry should formulate production patterns for the winter-spring crop. The State Bank should supervise the agricultural bank to provide more loans to peasant families to buy materials for agricultural production. Efforts must be made to prevent peasants from being forced to seek loans with high interest rates, or sell their premature rice, and so forth.

6. Through experience drawn from natural calamity and drought this year, provinces must study and formulate methods and plans to improve crop patterns and measures to control flash floods and typhoons in the central region for the days ahead, so as to minimize loss. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry must help provinces formulate crop patterns for each area to suit the local conditions and to cope with natural calamities, thereby ensuring satisfactory agricultural production despite flash floods and typhoons. This is the fundamental issue requiring careful preparation.

7. Efforts must be made to meet requests of provinces in helping peasants to clear their loans given by the state during the past year in terms of grain, fertilizer, insecticide, fuel, and so forth. The period of refunding may be temporarily extended. For families facing acute difficulties and those who are entitled to social welfare assistance that could not clear their debts in time, the provinces concerned must make careful inspection and work closely with the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry to file a report to the prime minister for a final decision in this regard. Various provinces must work with the Ministry of Finance to reduce or exempt taxes for localities which experienced losses caused by natural calamity in accordance with the law.

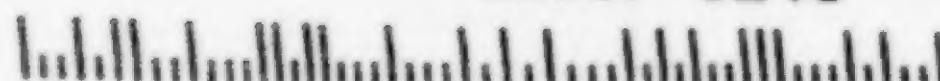
8. Due to the budget constraint during the year-end period, the State Planning Commission is charged with the duty of considering the government allowances to provinces by working closely with the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture and Food Industry; and Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare as well as with localities to map out a plan for providing only essential allowances—to be appropriated chiefly from the national reserves—to seek final approval from the prime minister.

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